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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination**Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

As one of the main functions of the international arrangement on forests, the United Nations Forum on Forests addresses enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination at each session. The present report builds on the structure of past reports and provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken since the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests related to enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The report highlights further possibilities for cooperation in the context of the overall theme of the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, "Forests and economic development", as well as in furthering implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the four global objectives on forests.

The present report is intended to facilitate the deliberations of Member States at the upcoming session of the Forum in relation to cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination. It highlights emerging policy issues crucial for strengthening political commitments on forests and new opportunities and suggests some points for consideration by the Forum.

* E/CN.18/2013/1.



I. Introduction

1. As one of the main functions of the international arrangement on forests (see Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and United Nations Forum on Forests resolution 1/1), the United Nations Forum on Forests addresses issues related to promoting enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination among Member States, international and regional organizations and major group stakeholders, and provides guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, at each session of the Forum. At its ninth session, in the resolution entitled "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", the Forum invited Member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant stakeholders to consider activities and mechanisms to share information and experiences on forest valuation methodologies to better reflect the full value of forest ecosystems and trees outside forests in order to enrich the discussion of the overall theme of the tenth session of the Forum, in 2013.

2. Furthermore, through its resolution at the ninth session of the Forum, the Forum invited the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to provide scientific information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum, through adequate modalities, including the forest expert panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries. The Forum also requested the secretariat of the Forum to continue to further cooperate with the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Rio Conventions) towards a comprehensive approach to the multiple values of forests and sustainable forest management.

3. At its ninth session, the Forum requested the Secretary-General to continue to address the relationship between forests and trees outside forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at relevant international and regional meetings addressing sustainable development.

4. The present report provides an overview of activities that have been undertaken by the Forum secretariat, since the ninth session of the Forum, to enhance cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues. The report also provides a brief overview of such activities among relevant Member States, organizations, processes and stakeholders. It should be noted that a number of such activities are covered in detail in other relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the tenth session of the Forum and in the information note on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2011 and 2012 (E/CN.18/2013/10).

II. System-wide cooperation and policy and programme coordination

A. Economic and Social Council

5. In an effort to improve system-wide coordination and coherence, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/16 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, decided that the Council should hold an annual ministerial-level review as part of the high-level segment, and also decided that the Development Cooperation Forum should be held within that high-level segment. The themes of the annual ministerial review of the Council for 2011 and 2012 were "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education" and "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals", and the Forum secretariat contributed substantively to the preparation of both, by providing relevant provisions of the decisions of the Forum and information for inclusion in the official documents of the reviews.

6. In addition, the Chair of the Bureau of the tenth session of the Forum and the secretariat participated in the annual joint meetings of the Economic and Social Council Bureau and the Chairs of the functional commissions, held in February 2011 and in May 2012 in New York. Those joint meetings were organized to enhance coordination and cooperation between the Council and its functional commissions, as well as among the functional commissions. During these meetings, the Bureau of the tenth session of the Forum provided contributions on the themes of the annual ministerial review for 2011 and 2012.

B. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

7. The Forum secretariat continued to actively participate in the interdepartmental activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and contributed to the interdepartmental work in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015 and the follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The secretariat facilitated the work of the Bureau for the tenth session of the Forum in transmitting the ministerial declaration, adopted at the ninth session of the Forum (see E/2011/42-E/CN.18/2011/20, chap. I), to the co-chairs of the preparatory committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to the Secretary-General of the Conference, as the input from the Forum. The secretariat also provided substantive support to the informal consultations process and negotiations on forests in the outcome document, and provided relevant technical and policy advice to Member States, upon request. As a result of these inputs from the Forum and its secretariat, the outcome document, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288) fully recognized the significance of forests in addressing pressing sustainable development challenges, and underscored the role of the Forum, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. For further information, see the corresponding report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2013/6).

8. The Forum secretariat has also been active in interdepartmental work on the development agenda beyond 2015. In September 2011, the Secretary-General requested the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to establish a core group of dedicated senior technical experts to coordinate system-wide preparations on ongoing efforts and propose a unified vision and road map for the definition of a United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, in consultation with all stakeholders. Launched in January 2012 and led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP, the United Nations system task team on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda brings together over 60 United Nations system entities, including all the members of the expanded Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (the expanded membership was part of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) and the United Nations Development Group. The task team was formed to assess ongoing efforts within the United Nations system; consult with such external stakeholders as civil society, academia and the private sector; and to develop a system-wide vision and road map to support the deliberations on the development agenda beyond 2015.

9. The task team submitted its first report to the Secretary-General, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, which covered the three above-mentioned aspects, in June 2012. The Forum secretariat contributed to the report through its engagement in the development of a "think piece" on sustainable development. The report was a basis for the work of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which held its first meeting in September 2012 and is scheduled to present its final report in May 2013. The High-level Panel is mandated to further elaborate on the possible content of the development agenda beyond 2015. The report to the Secretary-General will be an input for the intergovernmental debate on this topic during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, which will start with a high-level summit to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals. The Forum secretariat has also been active in interdepartmental work on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (for more information on these activities, see E/CN.18/2013/6).

10. The Forum secretariat co-led the development of a concept note on conflict and fragility and has contributed to the development of a concept note on environmental sustainability. These papers will inform the thematic consultations on the development agenda beyond 2015.

C. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

11. The secretariat of the Forum on Forests and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have continued to work together through participating in the discussions on indigenous peoples and inequalities in the context of the development agenda beyond 2015. The secretariat of the Forum on Forests also actively participated in an Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and Forests, held in January 2011 in New York, coinciding with the full year of celebrations of the International Year of Forests, 2011. The Expert Group Meeting called upon Member States to recognize indigenous peoples' rights to forests and called for the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the United Nations Conference on

Sustainable Development and in the commemoration of the International Year of Forests, 2011.

III. Cooperation with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations programmes, multilateral financial mechanisms and other international entities

12. At its ninth session, the United Nations Forum on Forests encouraged Member States to send consistent messages to the governing bodies of the organizations that form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to support the work of the Forum in order to ensure coherence and synergies related to forests. The Forum also invited the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to provide scientific information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum, through adequate modalities, including the global forest expert panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries.

13. The Forum secretariat worked closely with a number of international organizations and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, within and outside of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on issues of common interest to promote sustainable forest management. Some of the key activities and initiatives are listed below. For more detailed information on cooperation and collaboration among the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership, see E/CN.18/2013/10.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

14. The importance of cooperation and coordination between the Forum secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was noted by the Forum at its ninth session. Throughout 2011 and 2012, the Forum secretariat has worked collaboratively with FAO on a number of important forest issues that greatly enhanced cooperation and coordination between these two organizations.

15. In cooperation with FAO, the Forum secretariat organized five interregional capacity-building workshops (held in Thailand, October 2011; in Kenya, December 2011; in Ghana, February 2012; in Lebanon, April 2012; and in Chile, April 2012). The overall objective of the interregional workshops was to strengthen and support the capacity of focal points on the Forum on Forests, the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme and the National Forest Programme in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in reporting to the tenth session of the Forum on progress made in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in the context of the overall theme for the session "Forests and economic development". The workshops also aimed to strengthen and support the focal points' capacity to conduct the monitoring, assessment and reporting required for the preparation of voluntary national reports to the Forum and focused on enhancing their understanding of the importance of implementing the forest instrument at the national level. Workshop participants contributed to a proposed monitoring architecture, which was finalized in the form of a reporting template and guidelines for voluntary national reports to the Forum. These capacity-building workshops were in response to the decision by the Forum, at its ninth

session, that a simple voluntary national reporting for the tenth session would focus on the implementation of the forest instrument and a balanced reporting on its four global objectives on forests. In addition, the Forum, at its ninth session, requested the secretariat to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. With funding from the Government of Germany and in collaboration with the National Forest Programme Facility, FAO also implemented pilot projects on strengthening implementation of the forest instrument in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines. Further information is included the related report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2013/2).

16. As a member of the Advisory Group on the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme, the Forum secretariat actively engaged and cooperated in the preparation of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015, and participated in the meeting of the Advisory Group, held in June 2011, in Rome. The meeting reviewed progress on the dissemination of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 and lessons learned to date. It also reviewed the draft long-term Forest Resources Assessment strategy, the remote sensing survey and preparations for the Expert Consultation on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. A presentation of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire was also provided. The Forum secretariat informed the Advisory Group of the outcomes of the ninth session of the Forum and preparations for the development of a streamlined reporting format for the tenth and future sessions. It also informed the Group of existing reporting gaps and indicators to better measure progress in achieving implementation of the forest instrument, the global objectives on forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

17. The Forum secretariat participated in the twenty-first session of the Committee on Forestry, held at FAO headquarters in Rome, in September 2012, and shared information with the Committee on the ongoing cooperation and collaboration of the Forum with FAO and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

International Tropical Timber Organization

18. The Forum secretariat maintained active engagement with the International Tropical Timber Organization and participated in the forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees, held in November 2011, in La Antigua, Guatemala, and in November 2012, in Yokohama, Japan. The secretariat informed and engaged the Council on decisions adopted by the Forum pertinent to greater cooperation and coordination with the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

19. In July 2011, the Forum secretariat also participated in the International Conference entitled "Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise: Experiences and Opportunities for Asia in a Changing Context", which was organized jointly by the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Government of Indonesia and the Rights and Resources Initiative in collaboration with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Samdhana Institute, the Forest Peoples Programme, the Global Alliance of Community Forestry, Kemitraan and the Epistema Institute. The International Conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond with the aim of promoting an in-depth assessment of

the relationship between forest tenure, sustainable forest management and income-generating enterprises to promote action across a range of Asian countries.

20. **Rio Conventions.** The Forum requested its secretariat to continue to further cooperate with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions in order to promote cooperation towards a comprehensive approach to the multiple values of forests and sustainable forest management. The secretariat collaborated with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions, participating at the sessions of their respective Conference of the Parties held in 2011 and 2012, namely, the tenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in October 2011 in Changwon, Republic of Korea; the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in October 2012, in Hyderabad, India; and the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in December 2011, in Durban, South Africa, and in December 2012 in Doha. Within the context of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Forum secretariat also engaged in a number of initiatives with each of the secretariats.

21. The Forum secretariat continued to participate actively in forest-related meetings, conferences and events in an effort to reach and explore new areas and new partners for cooperation and coordination on forests.

22. In March 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the International Symposium on Ecosystem and Landscape-level Approaches to Sustainability, held in Spain. The symposium focused on highlighting the body of work being delivered globally to advance the understanding and application of ecosystem and landscape-level approaches to sustainable land use and management. It also generated discussion on ways to create a forum comprising representatives with experience in landscape-level management worldwide and to develop a strategy for how to ensure this work is integrated into problem-solving on sustainable use and management of landscapes and natural resources in the light of critical current and future challenges.

23. In May 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the Joint Institute of Foresters of Australia/New Zealand Institute of Forestry Conference, entitled "Pacific Forestry — Growing a Forestry Future", which was held in New Zealand. The Conference targeted forestry policymakers, managers and practitioners from the South Pacific region and focused on the cultural and community expectations of forests in the region, and examined ways in which greater support for forestry practitioners, improved forest policy and better practices can be provided, including the consideration of such issues as off-shore environmental impacts (e.g., climate change), reducing costs and providing better access to markets, and making the role of national forests and trees as regards improved water quality, soil conservation and carbon sequestration more explicit.

24. In July 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the Asian Wetland Symposium, held in Malaysia. The theme of the symposium was, "Integrated biodiversity conservation: Linking forests and wetlands", and it was part of a series of international symposiums on wetland issues. The symposium was hosted by the Sabah State Government, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Malaysia, the Japan International Cooperation Agency through its programme for Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation, Phase 2, and the Centre for the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar

Centre), Japan. The Asian Wetland Symposium embodies a regional effort to enhance the delivery of the goals of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Programme on Man and the Biosphere of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Fund, and the forest instrument.

25. In October 2011, the Forum secretariat participated in the annual meeting of the Tropical Forest Foundation, held in Washington, D.C. The Foundation works to improve tropical forest management by promoting dialogue and alliances among industry, government and academia, as well as with research and conservation organizations. The secretariat highlighted both the successes and challenges faced in promoting greater recognition of people-centred forest management.

26. The Forum secretariat has continued to actively work with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Details of the Forum's cooperation with those organizations and entities is contained in the note on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2011 and 2012 (E/CN.18/2013/10).

International Year of Forests, 2011

27. At its ninth session, the Forum encouraged all relevant organs of the United Nations, including the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions, as well as United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in the activities envisaged for the observance of 2011 as the International Year of Forests. The Forum secretariat worked in close coordination with Member States, regional entities, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major groups in the observance of the International Year of Forests. An overview of the secretariat's cooperation with those organizations and entities is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Forests (E/CN.18/2013/9).

International Day of Forests

28. At its ninth session, in the context of the International Year of Forests, the Forum recommended that the Economic and Social Council and, through it, the General Assembly, consider the establishment of an International Day of the Forest, with the aim of recognizing the significant contribution of forests to sustainable development, the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the corresponding need to strengthen the sustainable management of all types of forests for the benefit of future generations. In December 2012, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 21 March as the International Day of Forests (resolution 67/200), in order to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests. The resolution requests the Forum secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, to facilitate the implementation of the International Day, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups. The Forum secretariat and FAO provided technical support to Member States in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the resolution.

IV. Stakeholder involvement

29. During its ninth session, the Forum invited Member States to support major group initiatives to maintain their engagement in the Forum and their commitment to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Stakeholder participation in the Forum remains a crucial component of the Forum's multi-year programme of works. In preparation for the tenth session, the Forum secretariat organized regular consultations with the focal points of the major groups throughout 2011 and 2012.

30. In line with the decision taken by major groups to develop coordinated and focused contributions and policy recommendations for the ninth session of the Forum, major groups submitted one joint discussion paper reflecting their views on the theme of the tenth session of the Forum. The engagement of the major groups with the Forum is outlined in that discussion note (E/CN.18/2013/7/Add.1).

V. Initiatives in support of the Forum led by countries, organizations, regions and major groups

31. Initiatives led by countries, organizations and major groups in the form of international expert meetings in support of the work of the Forum have made important and extremely significant contributions. Such initiatives are innovative and unique mechanisms that have contributed to the knowledge on important issues related to sustainable forest management and the international arrangement on forests. To make the initiatives even more dynamic and relevant to the work of the Forum, it adopted a set of draft guidelines for such initiatives in support of the Forum at its ninth session.

32. At its ninth session, the Forum took note of the guidelines for such initiatives in support of the Forum. The guidelines prepared by the Forum secretariat built on previous guidelines contained in resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (see E/CN.18/2011/10, annex). The Forum requested all entities to consider the guidelines when planning such initiatives.

33. In March 2011, in support of the Forum, the Governments of Indonesia and Japan, in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the secretariat of the Forum, organized a seminar, entitled "Challenges of sustainable forest management: integrating environmental, social and economic values of forests", which was a country-led initiative held in Tokyo. The objective of the event was to present an overview of international trends related to sustainable forest management since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including discussions on emerging issues such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus) and biodiversity conservation. It also aimed to review the development and implementation of a range of policy tools and instruments for the practice of sustainable forest management and to share experiences and lessons learned. Representatives of Governments, criteria and indicator processes, international

organizations, the private sector and civil society attended and participated in the event.

34. In October 2011, a conference entitled "Contributions of Forests to a Green Economy" was held in Bonn, Germany. The conference participants exchanged ideas and experiences concerning the roles of forests and sustainable forest management for developing a green economy. The conference, which was held in support of the work of the Forum, was one of the activities organized by Germany to celebrate the International Year of Forests, 2011. It was organized with support from Finland and Austria and in close collaboration with the Forum secretariat and FAO. Conference objectives included exchanging ideas and experiences on the roles of forests and sustainable forest management for developing a green economy and promoting alliances, partnerships and networking within and among the Forum and the Commission on Sustainable Development focused on developing recommendations on how to realize the potential of forests to help build a green economy, aimed at informing the discussions at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the tenth session of the Forum.

35. In January 2012, the Government of Viet Nam, with the support of Finland and the Netherlands, hosted an expert meeting, as a country-led initiative in support of the Forum, entitled "A pathway to a green economy in the context of sustainable development: a focus on the role of markets in the promotion of sustainable forest management". The expert meeting aimed to foster dialogue and cooperation on how to enhance synergies and resolve conflict between the major challenges facing forest policymakers and land-use managers; to strengthen sustainable forest management and sustainable land use while enhancing the contribution of forests and land-use management to improving the livelihoods of rural communities and small- and medium-scale forest enterprises; and to address the international trade of products from sustainably managed forests as a possible instrument to contribute to an enabling environment for legal and sustainable production of timber and sustainable forest management.

36. In September 2012, the Government of Ukraine hosted an expert meeting entitled "Lviv Forum on Forests in a Green Economy: Actions and Challenges for the Countries of Eastern Europe and Northern and Central Asia". The Lviv Forum brought together different stakeholders, policymakers and international experts to share experiences and explore opportunities for implementing the concepts and requirements of a green economy in the forest sector. The overall aim of the Lviv Forum was to make the concept meaningful, operational and beneficial for forest management and forest communities in the countries of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia. Participants discussed regional initiatives for the implementation of green economy concepts and requirements in the forest sector, with special reference to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and the role of forests in carbon economies, biodiversity conservation, and the sustainable use of forests, among other issues. The Lviv Forum also developed recommendations on actions to strengthen forest policies, institutions and practices that support the green economy. The meeting was organized and supported by the Governments of Ukraine and Switzerland, FAO, the Forum secretariat and Forest Europe.

37. In September 2012, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests organized and held organization-led initiative on forest financing in support of the United Nations

Forum on Forests. The event was hosted by FAO and co-organized by the Forum secretariat with the support of other members of the Collaborative Partnership and financial support from several Governments. It was held in response to the invitation addressed to the Collaborative Partnership in the resolution entitled "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", adopted by the Forum at its ninth session (see E/2011/42-E/CN.18/2011/20), and the resolution entitled "Means of implementation for sustainable forest management", adopted at the special session of the ninth session, held in October 2009 (see E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2). Its main objective was to deepen the understanding and knowledge of all stakeholders on the state of forest financing, the opportunities and challenges, and to allow experts to provide suggestions to improve the situation through the sharing of information and best practices. It offered participants the space and opportunity to exchange views on the findings of the 2012 study by the Advisory Group on Finance to provide further analyses on forest financing and was an occasion to further clarify and broaden the scope of information for a knowledge-based discussion during the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing. The event provided an ideal non-political platform for government experts, relevant international and regional organizations including member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership, major groups and other relevant stakeholders to thoroughly and analytically discuss several issues on forest financing. The summary by the co-chairs of the discussions, including the key points and recommendations, was submitted to the Second Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Forest Financing. The summary is also part of the official documentation for the tenth session of the Forum and is contained in document E/CN.18/AEG/2013/2.

VI. Cooperation with regional and subregional partnerships and processes

38. Cooperation and collaboration with regional and subregional forest-related organizations, processes and partnerships has remained a key aspect of the Forum. This aspect was further strengthened by resolution 2006/49 of the Economic and Social Council, which specifically added strengthening interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related organizations, processes and institutions as an additional main function of the international arrangement on forests. The forest instrument also encouraged greater engagement of regional and subregional bodies. Accordingly, the Forum set a new focus in its multi-year programme of work (2007-2015) on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session, in 2009, the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes and deliberated on ways for further enhancement of such cooperation and collaboration.

39. At its ninth session, the Forum invited regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their contributions to the work of the Forum and to provide input, in the context of the overall theme for the tenth session, on their efforts towards the implementation of the forest instrument and its four global objectives on forests, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences. Regional activities on North-South and South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation on sustainable forest management, were also encouraged.

40. The Forum secretariat prepared a questionnaire to facilitate regional and subregional inputs to the Forum at its tenth session. For the tenth session, the secretariat received fourteen regional and subregional inputs from the African Forest Forum, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, the East African Community, the European Forest Institute, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Near East Forestry and Range Commission, Organization of American States, Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Gestion Durable des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Economic Commission for Europe/FAO Forestry and Timber Section. The reports from regional and subregional organizations are clear indications of the growing relationship between the Forum and regional and subregional organizations, and are invaluable to the reports of the Secretary-General on regional and subregional inputs. Information on the Forum's cooperation with regional and subregional partnerships and processes is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2013/3).

41. In 2011, in close cooperation with regional bodies, the Forum secretariat launched an electronic newsletter called "Regional Voices". The newsletter aims to provide a platform for regions to share their experiences and lessons learned, and exchange information with one another, and with the Forum. Thus the newsletter also aims to help organizations to develop bilateral, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation networks on sustainable forest management. The newsletter is in an early stage of its operations and needs support from stakeholders in order to be more informative and outreaching.

VII. Issues for further consideration

42. Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, and within the United Nations system, plays an important role in the achievement of sustainable forest management, the implementation of the forest instrument and the attainment of the four global objectives on forests. During the current intersessional period, the Forum secretariat, the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, other intergovernmental organizations, institutions and processes, as well as a wide range of stakeholders, have increasingly found opportunities to enhance cooperation and intersectoral programme and policy coordination on forest-related issues. These efforts have culminated in the many activities outlined in the present note and increased understanding of the importance of sustainable forest management, the implementation of the forest instrument, the four global objectives on forests and the role of forests in contributing to sustainable development and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

43. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests has demonstrated its abilities and potential over time for enhanced cooperation and coordination on forest issues and in providing support for the implementation of the work of the Forum. With proper recognition of its work and the provision of appropriate new guidance to the Partnership by the Forum, the Partnership should be able to act more collaboratively and provide focused and substantive support to the Forum, in particular in view of

the important task ahead at its eleventh session, in 2015. In order to encourage the Partnership to support the intersessional preparatory work for the eleventh session, the Forum may wish to invite the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Partnership to specifically advise their organizations accordingly.

44. The Forum secretariat is keen on further improving and strengthening modalities of global and regional interaction and information-sharing. Within its limited resources, the secretariat is doing its utmost. Several workshops and meetings organized by the secretariat in the context of forest finance and the solicitation of inputs from regional and subregional bodies to the sessions of the Forum have further increased the interaction in recent years. It is working closely with regional and subregional organizations and developing new approaches, such as the electronic newsletter, to enhance networking and cooperation.

45. Maintaining and enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination across the international, regional, subregional and national levels on forest-related issues and promoting coherence and synergies in a cross-sectoral fashion require constant and sustained effort and resources from all stakeholders, in particular from Member States. In a rapidly changing economic, social, environmental and technological world, addressing challenges to and maximizing the potential of sustainable forest management requires strong support from all in enhancing cooperation, coordination and collaboration. The Forum has played a key role in enhancing cooperation and should continue to:

- (a) Incorporate and strengthen activities related to the observance of the International Day of Forests;
- (b) Support activities by major groups in support of the Forum and their engagement with the Forum to participate effectively in initiatives and activities in support of the Forum;
- (c) Support the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in carrying out targeted activities in support of the eleventh session of the Forum and its joint initiatives.



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International Year of Forests, 2011 activities: trends and lessons learned**

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note by the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat on the International Year of Forests, 2011 provides an overview of the thousands of activities that were held in celebration of the International Year. The Forum secretariat was designated by the General Assembly as the focal point for implementation of the Year. The report looks at these activities in the context of ongoing awareness-raising activities, and provides some lessons learned and trends based on the information submitted in voluntary reports from 70 countries and regional and subregional entities. This provides useful context for countries and organizations in planning their communications and media strategies and future outreach and awareness-raising activities, including in particular in the observance of the recently adopted International Day of Forests on 21 March every year.

Based on the information received through the voluntary reports, it is seen that global observances like International Years and International Days provide opportunities not only to amplify ongoing awareness-raising activities, but also to effectively influence policies and programmes. It is also generally observed that awareness-raising tends to include participatory approaches whereby communities and stakeholders are engaged in dialogue to enable sharing of success stories and best practices.

* E/CN.18/2013/1.

** The delay in the issuance of the present report was due to the need to include updated information.



I. Introduction

1. On 20 December 2006, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/193, declared 2011 the International Year of Forests and recognized that concerted efforts should focus on raising awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to serve as the focal point for the implementation of the Year, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes and relevant major groups. It also encouraged voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups to facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels, including by creating national committees or designating focal points in their respective countries.
3. The present report provides some lessons learned and trends on activities held in celebration of the Year at the national, regional and international levels, taking into account reports received in response to notes verbales dated 17 October 2012, and information contained in voluntary national reports, voluntary reports by regional and subregional entities. In total, 63 countries¹ and 7 regional and subregional organizations² provided information on their activities held in support of the Year.

II. Importance of raising awareness

4. Awareness-raising provides a framework for interactive communication and information exchange, with the eventual goal being effecting change in attitudes and actions at the policy, institutional or individual levels. The main components for effective awareness-raising activities usually include messages targeted at specific audiences, and a communication strategy that provides information using multiple approaches. Target audiences can be both internal, such as organizational or external, such as the general public and political leaders. Target audiences are also often specific stakeholder groups, such as youth, civil society and private sector. Regardless of the audience, however, clear and consistent messaging is ultimately a key factor for success.

¹ Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominica, Ecuador, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Saint Lucia, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

² Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission, East African Community, Forest Europe, Near East Forestry and Range Commission, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and Economic Commission for Europe/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Forestry and Timber Section.

5. In an era of information overload, communication and outreach is not an exercise in public relations; it is in fact an essential component of all aspects of development. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/124 B, emphasized that public information and communication content should be at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications and transparency should permeate all levels of the Organization. In the same resolution, the Assembly also recognized that developments in information and communications technologies open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries.

Improving understanding and communication on forests

6. The need for greater political and public awareness of forests is frequently identified as a challenge in implementing sustainable forest management. At the recently concluded second ad hoc Expert Group meeting on forest financing (see E/CN.18/2013/12), experts called for strengthening communication strategies to improve public understanding of the importance of forests. The report of the Secretary-General on means of implementation, for the tenth session (see E/CN.18/2013/11) further recommended that knowledge sharing should be promoted to improve mutual understanding and communication between the forest sector and other sectors and institutional financial systems. This is seen to be necessary to help mobilize funding for forests at the national level, from other sectors, such as watersheds, rangelands, energy, agriculture and tourism sectors. The importance of raising public and political awareness through data and information, intersectoral cooperation and targeted communication was also highlighted by participants at the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Organization-Led Initiative on Forest Financing (see E/CN.18/AEG/2013/2).

7. In the context of the main theme of the current session, "Forests and economic development", the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2013/5) recommended that innovative communication tools on the contributions of forests and economic development be developed to engage decision-makers to consider forests in international and national policy agendas, including the post-2015 development agenda.

8. Raising awareness through communication and outreach is thus a bridging mechanism to enable cross-sectoral and cross-institutional collaboration. In their discussion paper for the current session (see E/CN.18/2013/7/Add.1), major groups noted the need to strengthen knowledge of the impacts of forests on other sectors, especially those that contribute to food security and drinking water. They also noted the need for public education programmes to raise awareness of how people everywhere depend on forests, as competing land uses continue to create pressure towards forest land conversion.

9. All of these issues were part of the key messages for the International Year of Forests, Forests 2011. The theme "Forests for people" highlighted the role of forests in people's lives, in providing essential values and benefits in a range of areas, including shelter, food, medicine and clean water. The Forests 2011 logo was designed to convey this theme, celebrating the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world's

forests. The iconographic elements in the design depicted multiple values of forests, including shelter, biodiversity, food, medicine, clean water and climate. All of these elements were intended to visually reinforce the message that forests are vital to the survival and well-being of people everywhere, all 7 billion of us.

III. International Year of Forests activities

10. The International Year of Forests, 2011 offered a unique platform to share success stories related to sustainable forest management around the world. In most cases, the Year provided an opportunity to amplify existing programmes and activities on raising awareness about forests, and to build new partnerships to coordinate activities held in celebration of the Year. Thousands of events and communication products were launched during the Year, which focused on communication with communities through meetings and workshops; education and capacity-building; contests and awards; exhibitions and displays; and publications including print-based, web-based and audiovisual products such as music CDs and videos. Following are some examples:

(a) 90 per cent of countries and regional organizations reported that they had hosted such special events as ceremonies, fairs, conferences and academic seminars or organized a congress or a capacity-building event;

(b) 52 per cent reported that they had held tree planting events involving community leaders, youth, ministers, civil society and a wide range of stakeholders. This had included the distribution of seedlings and providing post-planting information and guidelines to highlight the role of afforestation and restoration in sustainable forest management activities;

(c) 43 per cent of countries and regional organizations reported that their events had been targeted at engaging youth and school children;

(d) A third of the countries reported that they had held art or photography exhibitions to commemorate the International Year;

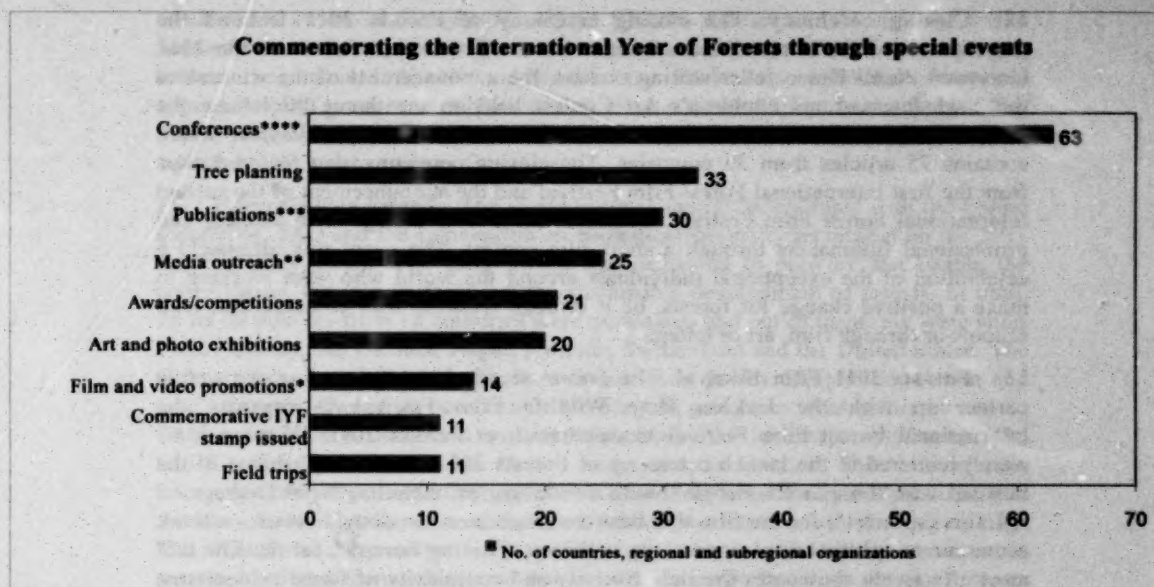
(e) 51 per cent of the countries and regional organizations reported that they had published special publications (books and websites) and reports for the International Year;

(f) 51 per cent of the countries and regional organizations created documentaries, launched film festivals and further enhanced their International Year outreach through radio and television programmes;

(g) Over a quarter of the countries reported that they had hosted special national awards and competitions to further commemorate the International Year;

(h) 17 per cent of countries reported that they had issued commemorative stamps for the International Year, as had the United Nations;

(i) 17 per cent of countries reported that they had updated regulations, strategies and protocols, and had signed onto new projects and created new partnerships.



Abbreviation: IYF, International Year of Forests.

- * Includes documentaries, film festivals, public service announcements and promotional video clips.
- ** Includes television, radio and print media.
- *** Includes special books, reports and websites for the International Year of Forests, 2011.
- **** Includes ceremonies/galas, congresses, capacity-building workshops and academic seminars.

Activities of the Forum secretariat

11. **Global launch of the Year.** The global launch ceremony of Forests 2011 took place in the General Assembly during the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The President of the General Assembly presided over the programme, which featured inspiring speakers and films. Nobel peace laureate Wangari Maathai emphasized the importance of the International Year as an opportunity to explore the value of trees and forests, and highlighted the value of the environmental services that they provide to people. The official emissary of President Paul Kagame, Minister Stanislas Kamanzi (Rwanda), announced his country's border-to-border landscape restoration initiative to be achieved by 2035, involving landscape restoration of wetlands, small agriculture holdings, trees outside forests, forests, biodiversity protection and livelihoods for the 10.9 million people living on 26,000 square kilometres of land. International filmmaker Yann Arthus-Bertrand premiered his short film "Forest" at the launch. The film was narrated by United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity Edward Norton, and combined spectacular aerial footage with messages on people's reliance on forests. The launch event also featured two-minute clips from the winning films of the International Forest Film Festival. As part of the launch of the Year, the Forum secretariat projected the Forests 2011 logo on the side of the United Nations Secretariat building, leaving a lasting impression of the International Year on the iconic New York City skyline.

12. **Closing ceremony.** The closing ceremony of Forests 2011 featured the presentation of the Forest Heroes awards for the first time, winners of the 2011 Universal Postal Union letter-writing contest, the announcement of the winners of the 2011 International Children's Art Contest held on the theme "Celebrate the forests" and the launch of the commemorative book *Forests for People*, which contains 75 articles from 35 countries. The closing ceremony also featured clips from the first International Forest Film Festival and the announcement of the second International Forest Film Festival, which would seek to engage with amateur and professional filmmakers through a short film contest. The event was ultimately a celebration of the exceptional individuals around the world who were working to make a positive change for forests, be it through working with communities, with schools or through film, art or letters.

13. **Forests 2011 Film Festival.** The Forum secretariat developed an innovative partnership with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival to organize the International Forest Film Festival in celebration of Forests 2011. Winning films were premiered at the launch ceremony of Forests 2011. The overall theme of the Festival was "Forests for People", with subcategories, including "360 Degrees on All Things Forest", for the film that best communicates humanity's social, cultural, economic or spiritual interconnectivity to forests; "Living Forests", for the film that most effectively showcases the rich diversity and complexity of forest ecosystems; "Issues & Solutions", for the film that most effectively communicates solutions to environmental and sustainability issues facing forests and the people relying on it; "Forest Hero", for the best film celebrating the work of individuals or groups committed to forest research and sustainability; "This is My Forest", for the film that most effectively tells a personal story of a forest; and "Shorts", awarded to the best film under 15 minutes in length. The Festival received 165 entries from 30 countries across six forest-related categories. The best was "The Queen of Trees", a visually stunning film that told the story of a single sycamore fig, Africa's queen tree. The film highlighted the complex interactions that take place in this microcosm between the animals, insects and people that this single tree supports.

14. The Film Festival was awarded the grand prize by CinemAmbiente, the leading environmental film festival in Europe. The Turin-based organization also coordinates the worldwide network of similar environmental film festivals and the Environmental Film Festival Network. Hundreds of film screenings were held around the world, and the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. The success of the Film Festival is a credit to the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival. With a long history of working to raise awareness and empower action through the innovative use of media, the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival works with broadcasters, filmmakers and other industry stakeholders to expand the role of media in understanding wildlife and their habitats.

15. **Forest Heroes awards.** This programme was launched by the Forum secretariat to identify and honour the efforts of "everyday" people, who work tirelessly to nurture, protect and manage our forests around the world. Ninety nominations for Forest Heroes from 41 countries were received by the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat and 15 finalists were selected. The five regional winners were Africa's Paul Nzegha Mzeka (Cameroon), Asia's Shigeatsu Hatakeyama (Japan), Europe's Anatoly Lebedev (Russia), Latin America's Paulo Adario (Brazil) and North America's Rhiannon Tomtishen and Madison Vorva (United States of America). In addition, the jury decided to add a special

posthumous award in recognition of José Claudio Ribeiro and Maria do Espírito Santo, two activists in Brazil who were tragically murdered in 2011 while trying to protect their natural forests and livelihoods. Each hero embodied innovative approaches and grass-roots initiatives that make a direct impact on the forests. The Forest Heroes awards are being continued in 2012 and 2013 and winners will be awarded at the tenth session of the Forum.

16. Future policy awards. The World Future Council collaborated with the Forum secretariat, FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat on the 2011 Future Policy award. The 2011 award was dedicated to policies that enable the conservation, the management and the sustainable development of forests. In total, 20 forest policies from 16 countries were nominated and out of these, six were short listed: Bhutan, the Gambia, Nepal, Rwanda, Switzerland and the United States. The Gold Award went to Rwanda for its national forest policy. Despite population and land pressures, Rwanda is on course to reaching its goal of increasing forest cover to 30 per cent of total land area and for border-to-border landscape restoration. The two Silver Awards went to the United States and the Gambia. The United States Lacey Act amendment of 2008 prohibits all trade in wood and plant products that are knowingly illegally sourced from a United States state or any foreign country. The Gambia's community forest policy has achieved incredible advances in sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation by handing control of forests to the communities that use them.

17. Universal Postal Union 2011 letter-writing competition. The Forum secretariat collaborated with the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the United Nations specialized agency for postal services, on their 2011 contest, with its theme on forests. Young people were asked to imagine themselves as a tree writing a letter to someone to explain why it is important to protect forests. More than 60 UPU member countries participated in the 2011 UPU competition. Worldwide, an estimated 2 million young people up to the age of 15 participated in the competition at the national level. A Great Oak in Guyana's Windsor Forest and an observant little tree "prepared to care for humanity" helped 15-year-old Charlee Gittens from Barbados and 13-year-old Wang Sa from China to win gold medals in this international contest.

18. 2011 International Children's Art Contest. The Forum secretariat collaborated with the Gabarron Foundation and Queen Sofia's Children's Art Museum in Spain on the 2011 International Children's Art Contest, which had as its theme "Celebrate the forests". The contest challenged children between the ages of 5 and 14 to use the power of imagery to spread the message of the multifaceted value of forests and the people who depend on them. Nearly 2,000 drawings, paintings and collages from 50 countries were entered. The International Children's Art Contest has collected more than 50,000 works expressing the creative spirit of children internationally. Winners were announced at the Forests 2011 closing event, and an awards ceremony for the winners, featuring an exhibit of a selection of the artwork from the contest, was arranged in May 2012 at the Gabarron Carriage House Centre in New York.

19. Forests for People. This landmark publication was produced by the publishing company Tudor Rose, in collaboration with the Forum secretariat. It features statements of ministers and senior officials of international organizations and includes informative articles from 35 countries. The success stories in the book

reflect how people at all levels are changing their interaction with forests to sustainably manage these vital resources. The book was launched and distributed at the closing ceremony of the International Year.

20. **Forests 2011 website.** The website (www.un.org/forests) was launched on 4 October 2010, in collaboration with the Web Services Section of the Department of Public Information, and was re-designed during the course of 2011. The multimedia site featured slide shows, information on the International Forest Film Festival, the Forest Heroes, contests and awards, and promotional materials, including photographs, videos, fact sheets and brochures related to the Year. The site received over a million page views during the course of the Year.

21. **United Nations commemorative stamps.** The Forum secretariat partnered with the United Nations Postal Administration on a series of eight stamps to commemorate the International Year of Forests, illustrating the important role that trees and forests play in people's lives. The stamps were designed by internationally celebrated artist Sergio Baradat, highlighting the aesthetic beauty of forests and their vital link to life on Earth. They were issued in New York, Geneva and Vienna on 13 October 2011.

22. **Videos/films/public service announcements.** Video messages were produced featuring the Secretary-General, the United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity and 19 forest ministers and senior officials of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. A forest public service announcement created by Adolescent TV for the Forum secretariat features a contemporary take on how everything, from the tea we drink to the furniture we use in our daily lives, has a forest within it. The video was made available from the Forests 2011 website and screened at events. Award-winning filmmaker and United Nations Environment Programme Goodwill Ambassador Yann Arthus-Bertrand produced the short film, *Of Forests and Men*, which is narrated by the Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity for Forests 2011. The film, which premiered at the Forests 2011 launch ceremony, was generously made available free of copyright.

IV. Lessons learned

23. Sharing information and promoting greater understanding of forests can be achieved through the multiple activities and strategies outlined above. However, changing individual or community practices and behaviour is more difficult to achieve and requires positive incentives. In the current environment of information overload, awareness-raising messages can be overlooked or ignored if the message does not have a personal impact. During the course of the Year, it was seen that activities that included personal stories resonated better than a simple presentation of facts and figures. "Informing to inspire action" was one of the driving forces of the International Year — the notion that people everywhere play a critical role in shaping their environment and ensuring the well-being of the forests that sustain them every day.

A. Human interest stories

24. Stories such as that of oyster fisherman and Forest Hero Mr. Hatakeyama, an iconic advocate of sustainable forests and farming practices in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, an area that was devastated by the March 2011 tsunami, garnered interest from both the media and the public. The inspiring girl scouts, Ms. Tomtishen and Ms. Vorva, who began their campaign to raise awareness about palm oil and the destruction of rainforests when they were only 11 years old, drew attention. Now at 16, these inspiring young women are role models in their effort to change consumer behaviour and supply chain practices to help reduce deforestation.

B. Positive messages

25. One of the messages of the International Year was that everyone everywhere could make a difference with regard to forests. In this regard, forest restoration activities provided a compelling narrative. In particular, the story of China's Loess Plateau, where a dry, dusty plateau was transformed into a lush green landscape of forests and fields, sustaining livelihoods of over 2 million people, was dramatically portrayed in one of the winning films of the 2011 International Forest Film Festival, *Hope in a Changing Climate*.

26. Echoing the positive message of hope and optimism, at the launch of the International Year, Rwanda announced President Kagame's commitment to achieve border-to-border landscape restoration over the next 25 years. By 2015, Rwanda and its partners will have designed a restoration plan to achieve sustainable agricultural production, low carbon economic development, adequate water and energy supplies, increased forest cover and new opportunities for rural livelihoods. These were some of the positive stories that resonated.

C. Branding and visual identity

27. Providing consistent visual graphic elements for the thousands of events provided consistent branding. The official logo for the International Year was developed by the Forum secretariat in collaboration with the Graphics Design Unit of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat. The logo was approved by the United Nations Publications Board and launched in all official United Nations languages on 19 July 2010. It was first launched in the six official United Nations languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. During the course of the International Year, and upon request by Member States, the logo was produced in 45 additional national languages.³ Making the official logo available in that many national languages was unprecedented at the United Nations, and helped spread the message of the Year around the world.

³ Including the six official United Nations languages, the logo was produced in a total of 52 languages: Arabic, Armenian, Austrian German, Basque, Belgian Dutch, Malay, Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese Traditional, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Faroese, Fijian, Finnish, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Kyrgyz, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Swiss French, Swiss German, Swiss Italian, Swiss Rumantsch, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese and Welsh.

D. Partnerships

28. To help facilitate the coordination of activities related to the Year, the Director of the Forum secretariat led the International Year of Forests team in building partnerships with leading international organizations in areas including film, media, art foundations and policy think tanks. These partnerships were instrumental in the success of the Year.

29. The International Year attracted partners from new stakeholders, the private sector, schools and museums. Demonstrating the cross-sector appeal of the International Year, the majority of logo requests from the private sector were not from the forestry industry, but rather were from the general public and the manufacturing, food and technology sectors.

30. A notable new partnership initiative forged during the Year was the creation of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Communicators Group. This new joint initiative leveraged member outreach resources, tapping into different networks and maximized the reach of publications and communications products. The Group coordinated a series of joint press releases, videos and events, including as part of the Partnership's Forest Day events. In developing key messages, the Communicators Group identified a total of 24 forest-related thematic issues, which were featured in press releases and events and highlighted the cross-sectoral values and benefits of forests. Building on these activities during the International Year, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests also developed a new award honouring the life and work of Wangari Maathai, which was awarded in 2012.

E. International Day of Forests

31. On 21 December 2012, the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/200, declared 21 March to be the International Day of Forests. The declaration of the International Day builds on the national, regional and international actions carried out during the International Year and provides a platform to coordinate activities on raising awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests. In the resolution, the Assembly requested the Forum secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the International Day, in collaboration with FAO, Governments and other members of the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests, international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, and relevant major groups.

F. Funding

32. Activities conducted in relation to the International Year and global observances like the International Day of Forests are funded through voluntary contributions. As a result, the Forum secretariat, led by the Director, was actively engaged in seeking donor contributions throughout the Year to enable the secretariat to carry out the mandated coordination activities requested by the General Assembly. The secretariat was fortunate to secure contributions from Austria, Croatia and Norway, which provided a funding base for most of the activities carried out in 2010 and 2011.

33. Building on the successful implementation of the first International Forest Film Festival and first Forest Heroes awards, the secretariat was able to secure financial support from the United Kingdom to carry out the second International Forest Film Festival and second Forest Heroes awards. In addition, funding from the United Kingdom has also made it possible for the Forum secretariat to launch its first forest photography contest and forest mobile application. The winners of the photography contest will be awarded at the tenth session of the Forum and the mobile application will be launched prior to the tenth session.

V. Recommendations

34. Recognizing the need to raise awareness and share knowledge of sustainable management of all types of forests at all levels, the Forum may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) To request Member States to provide voluntary contributions to catalyse countries' substantively based data and information collection and to deepen public understanding of the multiple functions of forests and their essential role for life on this planet, and request the Forum secretariat to seek funding for such activities;

(b) To further encourage Member States to promote awareness of challenges and success stories related to implementing sustainable forest management at the national level, including as a means of promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

(c) To encourage the creation of voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups organizations as part of ongoing activities to raise awareness of sustainable forest management at the local and national levels;

(d) To renew its invitation to Member States to celebrate the International Day of Forests on 21 March;

(e) To further encourage Governments, relevant regional and international organizations and major groups to organize activities related to all types of forests and trees outside forests, such as tree planting campaigns, at the time most appropriate to each State and support activities related to the International Day, inter alia, through voluntary contributions;

(f) To encourage all relevant organs of the United Nations, including the functional commissions and the regional commissions, as well as United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in the activities related to the observance of the International Day of Forests;

(g) To invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to extend and deepen its work with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Communicators Group;

(h) To promote observance of the International Day of Forests not as an isolated event, but as part of a continuing process of advocacy and partnership to foster greater awareness and action towards sustainable forest management at all levels.

Annex

Country and regional and subregional organization activities

<i>Country</i>	<i>Excerpt of Forests 2011 activities</i>
Afghanistan	The National Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) created forestry demonstration areas at the Badam Bagh Experimental Farm and in various districts in Afghanistan.
Albania	The Academy of Sciences of Albania of Sweden Royal Academy for Agriculture and Forestry organized an international conference on the theme "Forest policy in Albania to meet European Union standards"; Forests 2011 school activities, including tree planting; and a movie about the reforms in communal forestry in Albania and community involvement.
Argentina	Issued a commemorative stamp; produced brochures on the native forests and biodiversity of Argentina; broadcast conferences on television; organized participatory workshops; produced a special issue on forests for a children's environmental publication; and conducted tree planting.
Armenia	Organized an event to present the outputs of forest sector-related projects under implementation by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus and "Hayntar", a State non-commercial organization.
Australia	Forests 2011 was launched at a gala dinner at the Australian Parliament House on World Forestry Day; it was promoted through published forestry reports; educational activities for young school children across the country, including tree planting; universities hosted expert discussions and debates to promote the role of forestry in society.
Austria	Organized 30 major events and 100 other initiatives, including four high-level summits; a television series presenting forest-related programmes; a forest package was issued for every grade of elementary schools; 100 Forest Ambassadors were appointed as advocates for forest issues; a CD with classical forest-related music was produced by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra; 4 million bottles of the mineral water "Forest Spring" carried information on forests and a quiz for winning attractive prizes on a monthly basis; raising revenue for forest projects in developing countries through a chocolate bar on "A piece of Forests".
Bangladesh	The Bangladesh Forest Department, in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, organized the first forestry congress, the theme of which was "Forestry for Better Living".

Country	<i>Excerpt of Forests 2011 activities</i>
Canada	Created a one-stop-shop website for the Forests 2011 promoted through 14,000 schools; the Royal Canadian Mint produced a series of coins on the boreal forest; promoted a Forests 2011 film festival in Toronto; commemorated the planting of its eight millionth tree under the 50 million tree project, which is connected to the United Nations Billion Tree Campaign; and a number of activities were also organized by local institutions during Alberta Forest Week.
China	Organized voluntary tree-planting activities; formulate the 2011 China Action Plan for the International Year of Forests; local governments formulated action plans in line with local conditions; encouraged the participation of youth, women, enterprises and social groups to participate in Forests 2011 activities through the Internet, media, lectures and competitions; organized the first Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry, the second FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, the 24th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and other important international meetings.
Colombia	Organized an academic agenda through the year with photo, radio and video coverage including 19 conferences and 2 documentaries; issued a special Forests 2011 stamp; created an official forum of exchange through a website; proposed regulations and protocols on forest management; promoted greater public awareness through three quarterly publications and extensive media outreach.
Costa Rica	Organized 30 national, regional and local events, including the eighth Latin American Congress of Forestry and Environmental Law; for the first time, the target of 83 per cent produced wood came from legal and sustainable sources.
Côte d'Ivoire	Produced brochures, flyers, posters on the implementation of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries and the forest, law enforcement, governance and trade process to inform the public and stakeholders; organized meetings and seminars with stakeholders, including the private sector on the benefits of sustainable forest management.
Croatia	Promoted Forests 2011 through public media from advertisements and articles on commemorative events to a 25 minute documentary film entitled "Forests in Croatia", as well as memorabilia such as wooden puzzles, T-shirts, posters and picture books; several elementary and high schools across the country organized workshops; a photographic exhibition on "Forests through the eye of a forester" toured United Nations Headquarters, Pennsylvania, the World Forestry Centre in Oregon and Croatia.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Excerpt of Forests 2011 activities</i>
Cyprus	Distributed advocacy information on forests through leaflets, posters and signs posted along the main forest roads, television and radio broadcasting services, newspaper articles and the web page of the Department of Forests.
Dominica	Organized a special week of Forests 2011 activities, including an exhibition, radio and television broadcasts; an open day was planned, which allowed the public to visit the offices of the Forestry Division to learn first-hand about some of the activities of the Division.
Ecuador	Organized tree plantings, workshops, competitions and exhibitions; issued a commemorative stamp and publications; brokered new partnerships; engaged youth and adults alike to engage in celebrating the International Year.
Finland	Organized a high-level event to launch the International Year; held a future-oriented nationwide programme that focused on the forest sector, including the provision of information to school students.
France	Organized advocacy and educational activities, including publications, film debates, thematic exhibitions, forest tours and meetings with experts and the public.
Gabon	Organized 13 thematic lectures and debates; tree planting; photography exhibitions; created a forest Pygmy village; provided training and awareness-raising on forest and environmental protection.
Germany	Set up a national campaign to promote forests and forestry through 6,400 events, including fairs, billboards, film festivals, conferences and promotional material.
Ghana	Launched Forests 2011, along with national launches of the Anti-Bushfire Campaign, Greening Ghana Day and World Environment Day.
Grenada	Launched Forests 2011; collaborated with schools, the police force, youth leaders, the Scout movement, farmers and other stakeholders on a national tree planting event. The Forestry and National Parks Department, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and other partners, also demonstrated best practices and provided seedlings and technical support to stakeholders for sustainable forest management.
Guyana	Launched the International Year through a special session of the National Forest Forum; set up a national steering committee of community forest organizations to discuss the strategic orientation and activities of the Guyana Forestry Commission; continued emphasis on the mangrove restoration project to replenish the trees growing by the river banks.

Country	Excerpt of Forests 2011 activities
India	Raised awareness on forests, wildlife, livelihood, urban forestry, non-timber forest products, joint forest management committees and forest conservation and organized workshops; issued a commemorative stamp for the Year; World Environment Day was celebrated on the theme of the Year; organized the first Indian forest congress; released <i>Voices from the Field</i> and <i>Status of Joint Forest Management in India</i> and the booklet "Extension Strategies in Forestry Research and Agroforestry Research"; additional programmes were organized through the year by communities, NGOs and the State Forest Department.
Israel	Organized a number of activities from thematic meetings to tree plantings.
Italy	Organized national and local events including the "Adopt the forest" campaign, photography exhibitions; supported the 2011 Roma forest conference.
Jamaica	Organized Forests 2011 launch ceremony; inaugurated "Forest Trek" to encourage awareness by experiencing forests first hand by 300 participants; tree planting; awarded prizes for songs and posters on "Forest for Life".
Japan	Established a national committee to manage the International Year activities; organized promotional activities, including issuance of a Forests 2011 commemorative stamp, tree planting ceremonies and awareness-raising events.
Jordan	Production and distribution of brochures among students; provided capacity-building and awareness for rangers; organized several lectures; planted 200,000 seedlings; organized workshops; formulated projects based on the participatory approach with local communities; and established a pilot afforestation project across 300 hectares.
Liberia	Organized awareness and sensitization programmes, both indoors and outdoors.
Luxembourg	Organized a multitude of activities broadcast through media outlets, including television and radio for wider reach; issued two stamps with forest motifs; organized concerts and plays in forests and theatres; produced two films and illustrated books; held art and photography exhibitions; organized conferences, workshops and seminars; held field trips for youth and adults.
Madagascar	Conducted a media outreach campaign through television, radio and newspapers, helped engage local communities, national authorities and NGOs, especially in the reforestation of different regions.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Excerpt of Forests 2011 activities</i>
Malaysia	Organized commemoration ceremonies for Forests 2011, seminars, workshops, conferences, planting of mangroves and trees.
Mexico	Undertook a large number of activities to commemorate Forests 2011, including the issuance of a commemorative Forests 2011 stamp; a national forestry merit award and other national and local Forests 2011 contests for youth and adults alike; 70 exhibitions across museums, galleries and convention centres with 310,102 visitors; issued 11 different promotional items, including postcards and DVDs with Forests 2011 video; environmental fairs, workshops and conferences; web pages and lottery bills; tree plantings; building Forests 2011 partnerships with diverse stakeholders, including indigenous communities, the private sector, schools and civil society organizations.
Morocco	Organized special Forests 2011 events for children and forest experts on the role of forests in combating desertification, in wetlands; three national and one international exhibition; and the publication of a booklet on forest ecosystems.
Mozambique	Organized the national launch of Forests 2011; the creation of a technical committee; workshops; wide dissemination of Forests 2011 materials across forums, including books and calendars; 50 awareness campaigns, including debates; planted over 1,000 hectares under the presidential initiative "One child, one tree and one new forest, one community leader"; presented awards for the best community leader, schools and forest operator who had the best planted area.
Myanmar	Myanmar Forestry Week raised awareness through the encouragement of public participation in environmental conservation and forest development programmes.
Nepal	Celebrated Forests 2011 through forest conservation activities, including an international conference with Governments and NGOs, and through the commemoration of other environment-related international days such as World Environment Day, Wetlands Day, International Day of Biodiversity, International Tiger Day and others.
Nicaragua	Organized the Seventh Central American Congress on Forests, among other activities, such as exhibitions, awareness-raising campaigns on the role of forests in combating climate change, forests and governance and forest education.
Niger	Five prizes were awarded through a national competition held on the theme "Combating desertification" to encourage individual and community initiatives in the field of forestry; on National Tree Day tree planting and debates took place to convey core messages about the contribution of forests to the well-being of communities.

Country	<i>Excerpt of Forests 2011 activities</i>
Norway	Norway, in cooperation with Spain, organized a Forest Europe ministerial conference in Oslo; the Norwegian Forestry Society organized several events throughout the country at the international, regional and local levels.
Palestine	Commemorated Forests 2011 through a multitude of activities, including the distribution of leaflets and deepening concepts on forests among school students and in the school curriculum.
Panama	Developed a training programme on the management of agroforestry systems in the Ngöbe Bugle region; developed technical documents on forests, including on forest inventory and sustainable planning and management of forests, to be implemented across 160,000 acres of natural forest.
Papua New Guinea	Formed a multi-stakeholder committee to manage Forests 2011 activities, including the launch; organized a seminar; planted 3 million trees; named tree species by provinces; wrote a chapter for a book on Forests of the Pacific Islands; held two forestry open days with NGOs, industry and public authorities.
Philippines	The Presidential Proclamation (No. 125) on the National Year of the Forests made possible the commemoration of Forests 2011 through public awareness programmes, greening initiatives, poverty reduction related activities and policy support.
Portugal	Organized the Forests 2011 launch; tree plantings; exhibitions; awareness raising and education campaigns, including a Forests 2011 website and pocket agenda; held scientific and technical seminars; workshops; contests and awards, including for photography contests, the "Discovering the Forest" contest for schools; the inaugural National Prize for Architecture in Wood, the forest-themed annual jewellery contest, and the Universal Postal Union "best letter" contest.
Russia	Undertook a large number of local, regional and international Forests 2011 activities, including foresters congresses, scientific conferences, forestry forums, meetings and public relations campaigns. These measures have facilitated the creation of new conditions for the formulation and implementation of the national forestry policy. Forests 2011 increased the role of civil society organizations in Russia on the management of forests.
Saudi Arabia	Produced awareness-raising materials such as posters and brochures; organized talks and presentations on Forests 2011 themes through the forest week, as well as cultural and economic events.
Slovak Republic	Organized exhibitions, communication campaigns (DVDs, posters, press conferences, etc.) and a special website on national level Forests 2011 activities; convened the National Philharmonic Orchestra in a national park; issued a postage stamp on forests; created education programmes targeted at youth and children.

Country	Excerpt of Forests 2011 activities
South Africa	Organized symposiums and conferences, including the Fourth Forest Engineering Conference and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Conservation Forum on Forests; encouraged tree planting in the context of the "Billion Tree" campaign; published the book <i>Green Heritage: Trees, Forests and Woodlands of South Africa</i> .
Sri Lanka	Launched a national tree planting campaign with the assistance of school children and local communities where 1.1 million trees were planted throughout the country; poster and essay competitions for school children were held island-wide; and a special stamp was issued to mark the occasion.
Saint Lucia	Organized panel discussions, exhibitions, photography competitions, tree planting campaigns, forest hikes, radio programmes, field trips and documentaries.
Sudan	Organized media campaigns launched through television, radio and newspapers; produced and distributed video clips and audio visuals to raise awareness of sustainable management, conservation and development of the Sudan's forests.
Suriname	Produced a television documentary on sustainable forest management in Suriname; a mobile exhibition for forest communities on forest preservation; an educational expedition to the botanical garden for school students; planted of mangrove trees in the coastal area to protect against seawater erosion; Tropenbos International Suriname produced a book on the Center for Agriculture Research in Suriname Management System.
Switzerland	The Federal Council approved forest policy 2020; launched a documentary and the campaign "Proud of Swiss wood" and organized a multitude of events to commemorate the Forests 2011.
Togo	Organized an exhibition of forest products and seedlings.
Trinidad-Tobago	Organized a series of exhibitions, lectures, tree planting exercises and an award ceremony for Forests 2011, including extension services and an incentive programme for private and community forestry, development and maintenance of visitor and forest recreation facilities, forest regeneration, forest protection and regeneration.
Turkey	Launched Forests 2011; organized exhibitions including Turkey's national parks photography exhibition; planted trees; produced a documentary on nine Turkish forest "hot spots".

*Country**Excerpt of Forests 2011 activities*

Ukraine	Launched the Forests 2011 campaign "Future forest in your hands"; 85,000 people (students, NGOs, local authorities) planted 64 million seedlings across 12,000 hectares; competitions included photography contests, logging championships, children's essays and drawings on forestry topics; organized 295 lectures for 19,000 people and 97 study tours for 7,500 people; completed additional initiatives by local forest authorities.
USA	Launched an interactive Forests 2011 website; organized 115 events across 34 States and one territory, including mini-film festivals; art exhibitions; tree plantings; and national television broadcasts.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Organized the sixth Venezuelan forestry congress; Forests 2011 conferences and workshops; and tree planting activities.
Vietnam	Organized a series of Forests 2011 events, including letter writing contests and exhibitions on Viet Nam forests; produced the documentary "Climate change and the role of forests"; produced the first forest products festival in Viet Nam; held workshops; and organized tree plantings.
Zimbabwe	Organized forest fairs and field days; held national awareness-raising campaigns; workshops; tree-planting activities; encouraged the participation of youth and communities alike.

Regional and subregional organizations

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization	Actively participated in the Forests 2011 celebrations; developed and implemented a regional agenda of commemorative activities, including competitions, conferences and workshops, which are listed in a publication.
Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission	In collaboration with Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, developed joint communication materials to convey key messages relating to forests during the International Year of Forests. Also, the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week included film screenings by the International Forest Film Festival, launched by the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, in partnership with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival.
East African Community	Consolidated the submission of the East African Community Partner States Plans and Programme for the Forests 2011 celebration; coordinated the nominations of Partner States for the 2011/12 Forest Hero Awards.

Country	Excerpt of Forests 2011 activities
Forest Europe (ministerial conference on the protection of forests in Europe)	Ministers responsible for forests in Europe met to jointly position the issue of the continent's forests, in national and international agendas; the conference was attended by 42 high-level country representatives, the European Union, 6 observer countries from outside Europe and 29 international organizations. The ministers responsible for forests adopted a decision and a mandate in which they reflected on the future direction of Forest Europe to preserve forests and safeguard ongoing provision of their economic, environmental and societal benefits.
Near East Forestry and Range Commission	Increased the momentum on Forests 2011 communications highlighting drylands in international conventions and bodies.
Secretariat of the Pacific Community	The Forests and Trees Team successfully organized a number of activities, including the publication of a new book on Pacific forestry, supporting some national celebrations, awards, essay writing and poster competitions for school children and awards for forestry and agroforestry entrepreneurs.
ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section	Launched a PhD thesis award on sustainable forest management in the ECE region, sponsored by Pictet, one of Switzerland's largest private banks. The <i>Forest Europe/ECE/FAO State of Europe's Forests</i> 2011 report provides decision makers and the broad public with up-to-date, comprehensive and fact-based information on the status and trends in forests and sustainable forest management in Europe.

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**Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination,
including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative
Partnership on Forests**

**Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2011
and 2012****Report by the Secretariat***Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the activities and accomplishments of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in 2011 and 2012 towards meeting its two-fold objective, namely, to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and its member countries and to enhance forest cooperation and coordination among members of the Partnership. The Partnership does not have dedicated financing, and faces funding challenges.

There was a significant increase in outputs of the Partnership during the period compared with those outlined in its previous report (E/CN.18/2011/11). Among those outputs were a 2012 study by the Advisory Group on Finance of the Partnership and other forest finance-related activities; the promotion of the International Year of Forests in 2011; and issuance of an e-booklet on "Rio+20 and Forests" and a series of eight fact sheets on aspects of sustainable forest management. The Partnership also agreed to change the annual Forest Day event into a landscape day, with the aim of addressing forests and agriculture through a cross-sectoral approach. Close collaboration in the Partnership also contributed to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/200 on the International Day of Forests. In addition, members of the Partnership presented the first Wangari Maathai Award.

* E/CN.18/2013/1.



The Partnership continued to develop and expand existing initiatives, including the Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting, the forest degradation initiative, the Global Forest Expert Panels and the Global Forest Information Service. Recognizing the importance of cross-sectoral solutions to sustainable forest management, members cooperated on a variety of additional issues, such as forest landscape restoration, forest governance and law enforcement and forestry education. Cross-sectoral linkages are becoming increasingly crucial to the achievement of forest management goals.

I. Introduction

1. The present report presents an overview of the activities undertaken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its achievements in response to the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Established by the Economic and Social Council in October 2000 (resolution 2000/35) to operate under the guidance of the Forum, the Partnership brings together 14 international forest-related organizations, instruments and secretariats¹ to support the work of the Forum and its member countries and to enhance forest cooperation and coordination among the members of the Partnership.

2. To further advance its common mission to promote the sustainable management of all types of forests and strengthen long-term political commitment to that end, the Partnership organized a retreat in June 2011 to define its work for 2011-2012. The work plan of the Partnership focused on the invitations it had received from the Forum at its ninth session and on the 2011 Ministerial declaration (E/2011/42-E/CN.18/2011/20, para. 1), along with other developments and outputs from major intergovernmental processes.

II. Update on progress in 2011 and 2012: joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in support of the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests

3. The present section includes the achievements of the Partnership in support of the work of the Forum since its previous report (E/CN.18/2011/11), presented to the Forum at its ninth session, held in 2011.

A. Responding to invitations from the United Nations Forum on Forests at its ninth session

1. Forest finance

4. Mobilizing and providing access to financial resources for forests remains a significant challenge for many countries. For close to a decade, members of the Partnership have been working on a full range of forest financing activities to improve data collection and access to forest finance flows, facilitate knowledge exchange, build expertise and develop stakeholder capacities in mobilizing and accessing funds. Actions have also focused on creating small-scale market

¹ The Centre for International Forestry Research, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Agroforestry Centre, the World Bank and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

opportunities and promoting investments, not only in wood production, but also to account for other forest values and benefits.

5. Given their expertise and knowledge, member organizations of the Partnership received an invitation from the Forum at its ninth session, in 2011, to report to it at its tenth session, in 2013, on their ongoing work and future actions on forest finance and to deepen and broaden their work in support of actions to finance sustainable forest management.

6. The Partnership was invited to convene an organization-led initiative on forest financing in support of the work of the Forum and to support the implementation of all functions of the facilitative process of the Forum. The Advisory Group on Finance of the Partnership, composed of 12 of its member organizations,² was also invited to carry out work during the intersessional period between the ninth and tenth sessions of the Forum.

7. In response, the Partnership convened a two-day retreat in June 2011, in Orvieto, Italy, where it reached an agreement on its workplan for 2011 and 2012, including its contributions to activities related to forest financing, the workplan of the Advisory Group on Finance and the venue and date for the organization-led initiative.

8. The secretariat of the Forum played a lead agency role in coordinating the workplan of the Advisory Group, which included updating and expanding the 2008 study of the Advisory Group on forest financing and organizing the substantive preparations for the organization-led initiative, in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other members of the Advisory Group. Its 2012 study (available from www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/AGF_Study_July_2012.pdf) took one year to complete, from June 2011 to June 2012, and involved intensive inter-agency collaboration. Contributions from FAO, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification/Global Mechanism, the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Bank were constructive in preparing the 2012 study.³

9. The organization-led initiative, held at FAO headquarters in Rome in September 2012, was enabled in part by the generous contributions of a few donors and by active fundraising on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and FAO. It was attended by about 150 experts from 69 countries and 21 regional and international organizations and major group stakeholders. Nearly all members of the Partnership attended. Keynote and panel discussions were held throughout the two days, with the 2012 study of the Advisory Group on Finance

² The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, FAO, the World Bank, GEF, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Council for Research in Agroforestry, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Center for International Forestry Research, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, UNEP and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification/Global Mechanism.

³ In accordance with the resolution of the ninth session of the Forum (see E/2011/42-E/CN.18/2011/20, para. 2), input focused on forest financing trends and potential with regard to climate change, biological diversity, sustainable land and forest management, land degradation and desertification, financial resources associated with the processes of forest law and governance, and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building.

serving as the basis for discussions during the meeting. As a result, new work has emerged among Partnership members on forest finance to address gaps in data and reporting on the cash and non-cash contributions of forests.

10. The input of Partnership members is captured in the summary of the Co-Chairs of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests organization-led initiative on Forest Financing (see E/CN.18/AEG/2013/2) and the 2012 study of the Advisory Group on Finance. In 2011 and 2012, several members also provided input and support to the facilitative process workshops of the Forum on small island developing States and low forest cover countries. Further details concerning the summary of the Co-Chairs, the 2012 study and results of the facilitative process are included in the report of the Secretary-General on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2013/11).

11. The 2012 study of the Advisory Group on Finance was recognized as a rich source of information for the organization-led initiative and for the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing of the Forum, held in Vienna in January 2013 (see www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc.html).

12. Members of the Partnership continued to provide support on the issue of forest financing at the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group. Besides presenting key recommendations of the 2012 study of the Advisory Group on Finance, several members shared their ongoing work on the subject with participants and contributed significantly to the discussions and deliberations of the meeting. The need was reiterated for the Partnership's member organizations to continue to support its member countries in order to strengthen forest finance, including the building of the necessary capacities at the country level. The report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing on its second meeting is contained in document E/CN.18/2013/12.

13. Despite the successes, it is important to note that financing to carry out such requests was significantly limited, which caused extreme pressure to be put on the lead agency to carry out the tasks. Further guidance from the Forum is therefore needed to remedy this situation in the future.

2. Reporting on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and streamlining reporting formats

14. In 2011, targeted collaboration between the secretariat of the Forum and FAO focused on harmonizing the reporting formats of the Forum to improve data collection and analysis as well as improve understanding of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (the forest instrument) (see General Assembly resolution 62/98, annex) and its implementation at the country level.

15. A series of regional workshops on national reporting, conducted jointly by the secretariat of the Forum and FAO, played a key role in that regard. The workshops, funded through the United Nations Development Account, aimed at strengthening reporting capacities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition by presenting guidelines and measures for implementation, forest-related definitions and monitoring, reporting and assessment tools. Following the successful implementation of the workshops, the secretariat of the Forum developed a streamlined reporting format that, to date, has led to 55 countries submitting

national reports to the Forum at its tenth session. The number of submitted reports has more than tripled in comparison with the previous two sessions.

16. The workshops also helped to build greater awareness of the importance of the implementation of the forest instrument. That resulted in an increase in interest from China, Gabon, India, Mongolia, Nigeria, Swaziland and Zambia to implement the instrument with support from FAO, and continued support to the initial four FAO pilot projects on the implementation of the instrument in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines, with support from the Governments of Germany and Japan.

17. Greater support from the Partnership on utilizing national forest programmes and other strategies for sustainable forest management to further implement the forest instrument in the current and future country pilot projects will be given significant attention over the next biennium. It is also expected that this work will generate a collaborative basis for further work between the secretariat of the Forum and FAO to explore potential approaches to incorporate the elements of the instrument and the global objectives on forests into the 2014 report on the *State of the World's Forests*. In 2012, FAO provided a secondment to the secretariat of the Forum to contribute to the reporting work of the Forum and FAO. FAO will continue this support through most of 2013.

18. The Partnership as a whole has continued to look at new approaches to reduce the reporting burden on countries. Mindful of the reporting requests made by the Forum on Forests at its ninth session and other governing bodies of Partnership members, the Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting (www.cpfweb.org/73035/en) met in Rome in April 2012. The meeting, hosted by FAO as the Task Force Chair, included representatives of the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Forum on Forests and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).⁴ The overall objective was to identify ways and means to reduce country reporting burdens and improve the quality of data and analysis.

19. At the meeting, representatives of the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme informed Task Force members of the progress made on joint data collection through the collaborative forest resources questionnaire, produced by FAO and regional data collection partners. The potential for the questionnaire to streamline forest-related reporting and further engage intergovernmental processes, including the Forum, to support joint data collection and analysis was also discussed. In that regard, information was shared by Task Force members on their plans to harmonize country reporting requirements, including variables and timing, in their respective governing bodies. The questionnaire is already being used by Forest Europe, the Montreal Process, FAO, the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa, and the data collected will contribute to the assessment of the international arrangement on forests in 2015.

20. Given the evolving needs and priorities of countries, members decided to update the terms of reference of the Task Force and develop a workplan for

⁴ Of the seven Task Force members, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification could not participate.

2012-2015, including operational aspects, with a roster of reporting experts, opportunities for joint meetings and capacity-building activities. The workplan also addressed strategic priorities on the use of forest resources assessment indicators, including the creation of "soft indicators" to review the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests.

21. A high priority on the agenda of the Partnership will be preparations for the 2015 effectiveness review, taking into account the pace of events and developments in other major intergovernmental processes, including the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. Since these processes set out to devise a new development vision after 2015, it is critical for the Partnership to provide both technical and strategic input from a broad natural resource perspective.

3. Demonstrating the full value of forests through a cross-sectoral approach

22. The Partnership has for several years promoted a landscape approach across sectors to optimize the linkage among land management, agriculture, forests and water, integrate natural resource issues and ensure biodiversity safeguards, climate change mitigation and people's resilience to unforeseeable changes in the environment.

23. By promoting an agriculture-forest interface, the Partnership has demonstrated the potential of forests in restoring depleted lands, supporting sustainable agricultural productivity and the preservation of biodiversity, contributing to poverty and hunger eradication and achieving a greener economy. The importance of such linkages was emphasized in the inputs of the Partnership to side events at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

24. The area of agroforestry is receiving growing attention from many sectors, while the area of food security has served as a bridge linking the energy, agriculture, forestry, environment and development sectors. Trees on farms enhance food security directly through the production of fruits, nuts and edible leaves, while "fertilizer trees" indirectly enhance food security through increased crop production and "fodder trees" increase milk and animal production. Income from trees on farms and forests is also significant and can be used to purchase food. Forests also provide environmental benefits that are vital for agriculture, from watershed protection to the prevention of soil erosion and climate regulation. Agroforestry policy guidelines were produced in 2012 by FAO in collaboration with the International Council for Research in Agroforestry to enable countries to develop and promote policies that encourage tree cultivation in order to stem forest degradation and deforestation. Complementary to this, guidelines on the assessment of tree resources outside forests were also developed.

25. The Partnership has been attentive to how a likely increase in human population, economic challenges, natural disasters and climate change impacts could influence the reliance of local communities on other forest types and woodlands in different regions. In that regard, it has begun to explore areas for cooperation on drylands and wetlands. Individual initiatives from specific Partnership member organizations related to the cash and non-cash values of forests are covered in the report of the Secretary-General on forests and economic development (E/CN.18/2013/4).

B. Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015: positioning forests at the centre of the sustainable development agenda

26. At its 2011 retreat in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Partnership identified a number of activities to provide country-based analyses demonstrating the multiple functions and values of forests and their contribution to sustainable development.

27. The Partnership's official contribution to the preparatory process for the Conference, entitled "The Earth Summit 2012 and forests", was submitted to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in November 2011. Given its strategic message, the Partnership decided to expand the submission into an e-booklet, underscoring existing cases, on how to approach twenty-first century challenges from the forest sector and scale up efforts in other sectors.

28. The e-booklet was presented at the Conference during a high-level side event organized by the Partnership, which included the current and former Presidents of Guyana, the Secretary of Biodiversity and Forests of the Ministry of Environment of Brazil, the Minister of the Republic of Korea Forest Service, the Director General of the Forestry Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the heads of the Partnership member organizations. The event included a depiction of the importance of an integrated management approach and cross-sectoral coordination and included insightful country experiences on how to operationalize the concept of sustainable development with respect to natural resources.

29. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, on behalf of the Partnership, provided substantive support to the negotiations on the outcome document of the Conference, specifically the section on forests, during the preparatory process and the Conference itself. The secretariat also played an important role in facilitating the inclusion of a consensus agreement on forests in the outcome document.

30. In the outcome document, the importance of sustainable forest management in meeting many of the most pressing sustainable development challenges was stressed. Reference was made to the Forum, with its universal membership, comprehensive mandate and vital role in addressing forest-related issues in a holistic and integrated manner and promoting international policy coordination and cooperation to achieve sustainable forest management. In that context, the Partnership was invited to continue its support to the Forum and through the governing bodies of its member organizations to integrate, as appropriate, the sustainable management of all types of forests into their strategies and programmes.

31. In the light of the potential implications of certain Conference outcomes on forests, the Partnership is actively following the debate on sustainable development goals and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. At its December 2012 meeting in Doha, the Partnership designated the secretariat of the Forum on Forests to produce a concept note on the matter, to be submitted to the Partnership prior to the tenth session of the Forum, to be held in April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. The report of the Secretary-General on the international arrangement on forests, the

post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (E/CN.18/2013/6) includes an initial assessment of the implications of the outcome of the Conference and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 for the international arrangement on forests.

C. Communication and outreach

1. International Year of Forests: thematic issues

32. The Partnership's outreach and awareness-raising campaign during the International Year of Forests was a unique collaborative effort that drew significant attention to a number of forest-related issues around the world. The Partnership Communicators Group, led by FAO, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Center for International Forestry Research met periodically throughout the year to discuss approaches to maximizing the outreach of the Partnership, including through a series of press releases, joint videos and events.

33. Members identified a total of 24 forest-related thematic issues that were featured in joint press releases issued in 2011 to convey shared messages on forests. The process for identifying the issues took into account their relevance and the value they would add to other forest-related events. The press releases contained messages that had a strong cross-sectoral appeal and, as a result, many releases were picked up by broader media providers and channels of distribution.

34. The Communicators Group continued to meet in 2012 to discuss follow-up actions from the International Year of Forests, the rebranding of the Partnership and improved use of its website to continue the momentum gained in 2011.

2. International Day of Forests

35. The meaningful participation of different stakeholders in the year-long celebrations of the International Year of Forests in 2011 provided a strong impetus to continue to recognize the innate relationship between people and forests. The awareness generated throughout 2011, along with the feedback and experiences from countless people from all walks of life, was significant evidence of the value attached to forests and their resources.

36. At its ninth session, the Forum recommended that the Council, and, through it, the General Assembly, consider the establishment of an International Day of Forests, with the aim of recognizing the significant contribution of forests to sustainable development, the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the corresponding need to strengthen the sustainable management of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations. The Conference of FAO at its thirty-seventh session,⁵ supported the idea of the International Day, following earlier decisions in November 1971 by which it had endorsed the establishment of World Forestry Day on 21 March of each year.

⁵ See Report of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, thirty-seventh session, Rome, 25 June-2 July 2011 (C 2011/REP) (available from www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/023/mb767e.pdf).

37. Through the concerted efforts of the secretariat of the Forum on Forests, FAO and other members of the Communicators Group, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/200, in which it proclaimed 21 March of each year the International Day of Forests. Further information about the International Day of Forests is contained in the note by the Secretariat on the International Year of Forests 2011 activities (E/CN.18/2013/9).

3. Wangari Maathai Award

38. Drawing from the success of the International Year of Forests in 2011, the Chair of the Partnership made a proposal, which was accepted by the members, to expand the work of the Communicators Group by adding a new award honouring the life and work of Wangari Maathai. The Center for International Forestry Research, the International Council for Research in Agroforestry, the International Tropical Timber Organization, FAO, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the International Union of Forest Organizations and UNEP contributed to the financing of the Wangari Maathai Award in 2012.

39. The 2012 Wangari Maathai Award was presented at a ceremony held in Rome in September, as part of the twenty-first session of the Committee on Forestry and the third World Forest Week. The first prize was awarded to Narayan Kaji Shrestha for his efforts in forming and promoting community forestry in Nepal and internationally. His dedicated work in guiding efforts to create a more participatory approach to community decision-making, reaching out to women and villagers of lower castes led to the initiation of the first user-managed community forestry group in Nepal.

40. The jury also gave an honourable mention prize to Kurshida Begum of Bangladesh for forming a female community patrol group that operates alongside forest department guards to protect the Tenkaf Wildlife Sanctuary forest and its biodiversity from illegal logging and poaching. Her work has helped women gain an effective voice in their community, providing them with a steady source of income. The results of the Award are an indication that the efforts that Wangari Maathai made in Africa are reaching other parts of the world.

4. Fifth and sixth Forest Days and the creation of Landscape Day

41. The Partnership's Forest Day, led by the Center for International Forestry Research, has become an important discussion forum and networking opportunity on forests. Its success is due to many factors, including effective planning, coordination and communications, rapid response to demands and availability of new information on the role of forests in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and collaborative efforts among members of the Partnership.

42. The two most recent Forest Days were critical to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process in many ways. The issues raised at the fifth Forest Day, held in Durban, South Africa, in 2011, contributed to the agenda of the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention and raised awareness of forest stakeholders of ways to implement the REDD-plus agreement that had been reached in 2010 in Cancún, Mexico, to produce social and environmental benefits, and integrate forests into adaptation strategies on the ground. Organizers, including Partnership members, gave special attention to issues relevant to sub-Saharan Africa, to REDD-plus in the humid forest of the Congo

Basin and to the improved management and use of Africa's dryland forests areas for mitigation and adaptation. Also, for the first time, the fifth Forest Day included a special focus on gender.

43. The organization and delivery of the sixth Forest Day, held in December 2012, in Doha, relied to an even greater extent on the participation of non-members of the Partnership. While building on the success of the previous five events, it included an acknowledgement of the need for a landscape-based approach with a focus on synergies and trade-offs to better manage a range of resources, while providing solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation. Along those lines, it was decided that Forest Day would be combined with the Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihoods Day. The events would be held on consecutive days at a shared venue. The results of a survey on the sixth Forest Day will be made available in 2013 to determine its outputs and the effect of its new structure and design.

44. Against that backdrop, two major decisions regarding the future of Forest Day were announced at the sixth Forest Day. First, the Partnership agreed that the Center for International Forestry Research, acting on behalf of the Partnership, would join forces with the research programme on climate change, agriculture and food security of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, acting on behalf of the sponsors of Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihoods Day, to create a new, combined event to be known as Landscape Day at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that would integrate forests and forestry within the wider development agenda of landscapes for sustainable development and climate mitigation and adaptation. Second, the Partnership noted that future Forest Days would be held outside of the Conference of the Parties, reaching beyond REDD-plus and climate change to encompass broader issues and stakeholders.

45. In 2013 and 2014, important details will be addressed concerning the governance structure of future Landscape Days and Forest Days in the context of the Partnership's work. While this organizational shift provides new opportunities to reach across sectoral boundaries on integrated approaches and policy measures to sustainably manage natural resources, further analysis and discussion will be required on the implications of its broader scope and expected outcomes.

5. Website and new logo of the Partnership

46. Building on the achievements of 2011, the Partnership Communicators Group identified additional activities and products ranging from joint films and video releases to a number of interviews and opinion pieces featured in publications, journals and articles. Most of the outputs are available on the Partnership's redesigned and updated website, hosted by FAO (www.cpfweb.org).

47. In addition, FAO facilitated discussions among members of the Partnership to select its new logo, working hand-in-hand with professional designers to rebrand the Partnership. The logo was in full use by 2011. In conjunction with the redesign of the Partnership's website, FAO, on behalf of the Partnership and with assistance of the Global Forest Information Service, worked to optimize existing databases and events calendars to generate and share the most relevant information on forests, and will continue that work in 2013.

D. Advancing a common message on sustainable forest management

48. In June 2012, the Partnership Working Group on Advancing a Common Message on Sustainable Forest Management, led by the International Tropical Timber Organization and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and represented by all Partnership members, released a set of eight fact sheets on sustainable forest management, in English, French and Spanish. The International Tropical Timber Organization, UNEP, FAO and the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification/Global Mechanism provided significant support to this work.

49. Drawing from the General Assembly definition of sustainable forest management as a dynamic and evolving concept that aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations, the fact sheets depict relevant sustainable forest management aspects, including the multiple functions of forests, primary forests, food security and livelihoods, indigenous peoples, REDD-plus, biodiversity, gender and adaptation to climate change. They also emphasize the important role of forests and sustainable forest management for human well-being, sustainable development and a low carbon bio-based economy.

50. Serving as a useful reference point for many stakeholders, the fact sheets have presented a clear analysis of the role of forests in sustainable development and green growth approaches. They have helped to demonstrate complex and often marginalized issues through real topical examples.

51. The Partnership has already started to identify additional sustainable forest management fact sheets for preparation and dissemination in the biennium 2013-2014.

III. Additional joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

A. Forest degradation initiative

52. Forest degradation is a serious problem that not only fuels carbon emissions and climate change, but eliminates habitats for plants and animals and results in soil erosion and siltation of rivers and streams. It also often destroys the livelihoods of poor forest-dependent people.

53. Members of the Partnership, led by FAO, prepared studies to identify potential parameters and best practices for assessing the information gaps on forest degradation. Released in 2011, a brochure entitled "Measuring forest degradation" described the persistent challenges in the field. It also provided recommendations for monitoring the state of changes in forests for the development of measures that could lead to the restoration of degraded forests and the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands.

54. In addition, a FAO working paper entitled "Assessing forest degradation: towards the development of globally applicable guidelines" provides stakeholders with information on measuring forest degradation using the four key criteria of growing stock and biomass, biodiversity, production of forest goods and soil

erosion. FAO will include data on some of the indicators of degradation in its *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015*.

B. Global Forest Expert Panels initiative and its third thematic assessment report

55. The Global Forest Expert Panels initiative was established within the framework of the Partnership and is led and coordinated by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. It builds on the political recognition provided by the United Nations Forum on Forests and decision IX/16 of the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

56. The mission of the Global Forest Expert Panels is to support the Forum on Forests and other forest-related intergovernmental processes by assessing available scientific information in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, objective, open and transparent way and by producing reports on forest-related issues of high concern, including emerging issues.

57. In 2011, the United Nations Forum on Forests at its ninth session invited the Partnership to continue to provide scientific information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum, through modalities, including the Global Forest Expert Panels. Contributing to intergovernmental discussions on climate change and biodiversity conservation, the Panels released a full assessment report in 2012, entitled "Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives". Preliminary results of the assessment were presented at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, and the official report was released on the sixth Forest Day, in the margins of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Doha in November 2012. The full report has been endorsed by all Partnership members and the summarized policy brief is recognized as a document of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations.

C. Global Forest Information Service

58. The Global Forest Information Service, a Partnership initiative since 2004 led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, brings forest-related information from a network of partners to stakeholders through a single web-accessible gateway. Users of the service can easily navigate and access relevant forest and tree-related information, including news, events, publications and job vacancies. Data made available through the Service have grown to encompass information supplied by over 400 partner institutions from around the world.

59. Building on a common standard for sharing forest-related information resources, data is aggregated using online syndication methods to make the latest information automatically available on the gateway. The Global Forest Information Service promotes this collectively agreed upon system of web-based tools for information exchange and dissemination. It also draws on the participation of

information providers and users through capacity-building measures, networking and partnership for sharing forest-related information.

60. With a growing number of information providers, the Partnership has benefited from the Global Forest Information Service gateway to improve the functionality of its own website. The International Union of Forest Research Organizations has been actively overcoming challenges related to the evolving nature of technologies and tools for managing meta-database information resources. Nevertheless, the greater involvement of Partnership members' website content feeds and additional resources to better manage information technology among member organizations has been encouraged in 2013.

IV. Other collaborative activities

61. Given the wide range of issues related to sustainable forest management, members regularly engage in other collaborative activities outside the Partnership's workplan for 2011 and 2012.

62. Recognizing the importance of cross-sectoral solutions to sustainable forest management, several members have invested significant time and resources in the planning, funding and implementation of activities related to the Global Forest Partnership on Landscape Restoration, forest law enforcement and governance, including combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, education and learning platforms, to strengthen Partnership engagement with stakeholders. Studies were carried out by some members on forests, fragility and conflict, and alternative REDD-plus financing regimes. Additional work included guidelines on assessing public expenditure in the forests sector, an analysis of benefit-sharing opportunities resulting from forest management and support towards the development of networks of small and medium-sized forest enterprises.

V. Strengthening the working methods of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

63. In response to the growing number of invitations to the Partnership from the United Nations Forum on Forests and other intergovernmental processes, the Partnership revisited its working modalities at its 2011 retreat, building on the existing modalities of 2002. The importance of sustained and high-level participation in Partnership meetings was strongly emphasized.

64. So far, the joint initiatives of the Partnership and other functions have been possible because of voluntary contributions from members, who assigned their staff and utilized external resources for specific tasks. However, that approach has proved extremely difficult to continue owing to resource limitations and the other mandated activities of the members of the Partnership. Ensuring sustained financial resources for Partnership members to support its workplan in responding to the decisions and invitations of the Forum will be critical in the biennium 2013-2014, especially ahead of the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests. Without sustained financial resources, the Partnership's ability to take on additional requests could be limited, jeopardizing the progress it has already made.

65. To that end, the Partnership agreed to continue to structure its workplan, not only to set out what it could commit to and deliver, but also to report on its funding needs in order to undertake such activities. Partnership members have been reminded of its established practice of seconding resources, or contributing to the staffing of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Since 2012, the secretariat has benefited from a secondment from FAO to contribute to forest reporting and other technical areas. That arrangement is expected to continue through most of 2013.

66. The operational enhancements made to the Partnership have included the addition in 2011 of a Vice-Chair position and function to its organizational structure. The International Tropical Timber Organization was appointed Vice-Chair from July 2011 to December 2011. UNEP was then appointed from January 2012 to July 2012, a term that was subsequently extended to the end of December 2012. Accordingly, at the Partnership meeting in December 2012, it was decided to extend the term of the Vice-Chair to 12 months. The Vice-Chairs for the coming three years will be the International Union of Forest Research Organizations in 2013, the International Council for Research in Agroforestry in 2014 and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 2015. When necessary, the Chair can delegate the chairing of a meeting first to the Vice-Chair and then to any other Partnership member.

67. Meetings of the Partnership in 2011 and 2012 were held back-to-back with other key events, in different locations, where a majority of members could participate. Teleconferences on targeted issues were also introduced throughout the biennium. Summary reports of all Partnership meetings are available on its website.



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Means of implementation for sustainable forest management

Means of implementation for sustainable forest management

Report of the Secretary General

Summary

According to the United Nations Forum on Forests multi-year programme of work, means of implementation for sustainable forest management, including financing, is a recurring cross-cutting issue for each session. At the special session of its ninth session, in October 2009, the Forum adopted a resolution on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management, in which it decided to establish the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing and a facilitative process. At its ninth session, the Forum considered the report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group and reviewed the performance of the facilitative process. In a resolution entitled "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", adopted by the Forum at its ninth session, the Forum emphasized the importance of intersessional activities in preparation for the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group in January 2013. In accordance with the resolution adopted at its special session the Forum is to make a decision on forest financing during its tenth session. The present report provides a report on the intersessional activities on forest financing undertaken from February 2011 to January 2013. The present report contains recommendations on forest financing options and measures from all sources and for all types of forests and trees outside forests based on the outcomes of the intersessional work, including that of the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group for consideration by the Forum at its tenth session.

* E/CN.18/2013/1.



I. Introduction

1. According to the Forum's multi-year programme of work, means of implementation, is a recurring cross-cutting issue for each session.
2. At the special session of its ninth session, held on 30 October 2009, the Forum adopted a resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2, para. 3), in which it decided to establish the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing and a facilitative process. In its decision 2009/268, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the special session.
3. The mandate of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group is to make proposals on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument) (see General Assembly resolution 62/98, annex), including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the Forum's review of the performance of the facilitative process, views of Member States and the review of sustainable forest management-related financing instruments and processes.
4. Pursuant to the above-mentioned resolution, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group was to hold two meetings, one before the ninth session and one before the tenth session of the Forum, and make its final recommendations to the Forum at its tenth session for its consideration and decision. Accordingly, at its ninth session, the Forum considered the report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group, held in September 2010 in Nairobi (E/CN.18/2011/13), and reviewed the performance of the facilitative process.
5. In its resolution entitled "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication" adopted by the Forum at its ninth session, the Forum emphasized the importance of intersessional activities in preparation for the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (E/2011/42-E/CN.18/2011/20, para. 2). A ministerial declaration was also adopted during the ninth session, in which Ministers committed to taking a meaningful decision on forest financing at the tenth session of the Forum (*ibid.*, para. 1, draft decision I).
6. The intersessional activities on forest financing included a wide range of activities, which are described in the present report, and the results and outcomes of which were submitted to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group at its second meeting. The report of the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group is contained in document E/CN.18/2013/12.
7. The present report has been prepared to facilitate deliberations on means of implementation for sustainable forest management at the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to inform the Forum of intersessional activities on forest financing, including the work of the facilitative process and the outcome of the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group, so as to enable the Forum to make a decision on forest financing during its tenth session.

II. Report on the work of the facilitative process

A. Functions of the facilitative process

8. At the special session of its ninth session, the Forum decided to establish a facilitative process. The facilitative process has the following functions (see E/2009/118-E/CN.18/55/2009/2, para. 3, and E/2011/42-E/CN.18/2011/20, para. 2):

- (a) To assist in mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management;
- (b) To assist countries in mobilizing, accessing and enhancing the effective use of existing financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management, taking into account national policies and strategies;
- (c) To identify, facilitate and simplify access to all sources of finance for sustainable forest management;
- (d) To identify obstacles to, gaps in and opportunities for financing sustainable forest management;
- (e) To assist countries in developing national financing strategies for sustainable forest management within the framework of national forest programmes or their equivalent, as called for in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;
- (f) To facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building to developing countries;
- (g) To provide advice, upon request, and to share examples of good practice in improving the enabling environment for sustainable forest management, in particular in achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in order to attract public- and private-sector investment and philanthropic funding;
- (h) To enhance coordination, cooperation and coherence among relevant funding sources and mechanisms to improve the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests at all levels and to improve the effective and efficient use of available financial resources for its implementation;
- (i) To work to identify the barriers to access to financing, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to suggest ways to simplify relevant procedures and build the capacity of countries to remove them and to examine the effects, impact and synergies of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional activities on forest financing;
- (j) To encourage relevant institutions, such as international financial institutions, as appropriate, working in close concert with regional forest processes, to further develop ways to mobilize resources from all sources and to mainstream the global objectives on forests in their programmes.

B. Activities of the facilitative process

9. It is important to note that the facilitative process is an advisory process and not a funding mechanism. The facilitative process works in partnership with financing and funding processes in a mutually supportive and complementary manner.

10. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests initiated the facilitative process immediately after the adoption of the resolution at the special session of the ninth session of the Forum, with a project on identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities in financing sustainable forest management in small island developing States and low forest cover countries. The project was selected to kick-start the facilitative process following the 2008 study by the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, which found that the two categories of countries to have suffered the most from the drop in donor forest financing in the past two decades were small island developing States and low forest cover countries. Funding for the project was provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Global Environment Facility.

11. A series of 11 preliminary studies were carried out on forest financing covering 49 low forest cover countries and 38 small island developing States. These studies laid the foundation for discussions in four interregional workshops that brought together experts and practitioners at the national, regional and international levels. The two workshops for low forest cover countries were held from 12 to 17 November 2011 in Tehran and from 30 January to 3 February 2012 in Niamey.¹

12. Several recommendations and conclusions were agreed at the workshops. In Tehran, participants agreed, among other things, to (a) improve the enabling environment to facilitate and encourage involvement of the private sector; (b) ensure law enforcement and governance to prevent companies from exhausting natural resources; and (c) promote forest landscape restoration in countries where such potential exists, especially in low forest cover countries.

13. In Niamey, participants stressed the need to: (a) explore the full range of non-timber forest products, including fruit trees in Central Asia and shea and gum arabic in the Sahel and West Africa; and (b) recognize that trees outside of forests are a component of sustainable forest management, as they provide a link between forests and other types of vegetation cover.

14. The two workshops for small island developing States were held in Port of Spain from 23 to 27 April 2012 and in Nadi, Fiji from 23 to 27 July 2012. Participants in the Port of Spain workshop highlighted the need to promote the full economic valuation of forests, including the contribution that forests make to other sectors, and build on existing regional processes, such as the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Association of Caribbean States, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to promote regional and South-South cooperation and coordination. In Nadi, participants called for promoting a landscape approach wherever possible so as to recognize linkages,

¹ The reports of the meetings are available from <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/facilitative-process.html>.

including financial linkages, between forests and other land use types. In particular in small island developing States, the landscape approach extends to a ridge-to-reef approach. Participants also recognized the need to promote national sources of forest financing, including fiscal policies to create systemic and long-term support for forests.

15. A parallel and similar project on facilitating forest financing in Africa and least developed countries was undertaken by the secretariat of the Forum, with funding from Germany and Sweden. Four macrolevel papers and four country cases provided an in-depth analysis of the current institutional, geographic and economic context of sustainable forest management funding in Africa and least developed countries at the national, regional and international levels. The studies also identified some key funding challenges for those countries, and provided suggestions for mobilizing increased financing for forests, taking into account intersectoral linkages, notably the impact of other sectors, such as agriculture and transport, on financing sustainable forest management. The studies also took advantage of the findings and lessons learned from the previous project on low forest cover countries and small island developing States.

16. The studies were reviewed at two interregional meetings, which were held in Nairobi from 11 to 13 December 2012 and in Dakar from 8 to 10 January 2013. Twenty-eight African and least developed countries, along with other relevant stakeholders, participated in the meetings and identified key recommendations for further action in Africa and least developed countries in the area of forest financing.¹

C. Assessing the performance and potential future activities for the facilitative process

17. The resolution of the special session of the ninth session of the Forum includes several functions for the facilitative process and gives special attention to the situations of specific groups of countries. All functions of the facilitative process are of equal importance and there is no doubt that all functions have to be implemented with regard to the categories of countries identified in the resolution.

18. The facilitative process has implemented several projects focusing on identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities in forest financing, with the participation of more than 120 countries and 14 international organizations and donors.

19. The facilitative process has proved to be extremely beneficial to countries in their efforts to address forest financing challenges. It has assisted a large number of countries to work together on issues of common concern and to identify solutions to address these concerns. It has great potential to do much more for countries and other stakeholders. In collaboration with other relevant institutions, the facilitative process can play the role of a broker to further improve access to forest funding by countries and to help identify sources of funding.

20. The facilitative process can also assist at the national level through the preparation of a forest financing toolkit to assist countries in developing national forest financing strategies that take into account national policies and strategies.

21. It is worth mentioning that the work of the facilitative process depends entirely on voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests. The limited staffing and financial resources currently available have prevented the facilitative process from launching activities to fulfil all of its functions immediately. If sufficient resources were provided, it would be possible to have a long-term plan for implementation of all facilitative process functions, as well as those recommendations that emanated from the intersessional activities on forest financing. For example, a project similar to the one on small island developing States and low forest cover countries (see para. 10) could be carried out for the other categories of countries listed in the resolution of the special session of the ninth session of the Forum, or donor coordination and cooperation could be enhanced by identifying where lack of coordination remains and how different donor data on forest financing could be harmonized.

22. In the light of the above, the Forum may wish to review the performance of the facilitative process, provide guidance for further work by the facilitative process and identify corresponding resources.

III. 2012 study on forest financing by the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

23. In its resolution on forests for people, the Forum invited the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to expand and update the 2008 finance paper of the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.² In paragraphs 28, 29, 32 (a) and 34 of the resolution, the Forum set the terms, scope and main components for the 2012 study of the Advisory Group on Finance on forest financing.

A. Scope and content of the study

24. The 2012 study of the Advisory Group on Finance on forest financing contains six chapters, which address the requests in the resolution. Chapter 1 reviews the flow of financing to forests from all sources. Chapter 2 includes analyses of opportunities for forest-related financing in relation to climate change, biological diversity, sustainable land and forest management, and land degradation and desertification. The chapter also reviews financial resources associated with forest law enforcement and governance processes, as well as the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building. Chapter 3 maps changes in thematic areas, geographic regions or country groups with respect to forest financing and identifies gaps and needs. Chapter 4 identifies barriers to accessing resources for forests, presenting a comprehensive analysis of the main obstacles that countries and other stakeholders face. Based on this analysis, proposals are made on how to overcome the barriers. Chapter 5 highlights a number of success stories in forest financing.

² Marku Simula, *Financing Flows and Needs to Implement the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests*, the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, 2008 (available from http://www.profor.info/sites/profor.info/files/Analyzing_Financing_Flows.pdf).

25. Chapter 6 proposes actions and measures to mobilize financing from all sources and for all types of forests at all levels. The chapter also provides suggestions on strengthening existing forest-related mechanisms and instruments at the global level. Chapter 6 also contains a review of the advantages and disadvantages of establishing a voluntary global forest fund and makes some suggestions on these issues.

26. The data and information for the study were compiled from existing databases on global and regional forest financing activities, input from members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, reviews of the literature on forest financing and inputs from individual consultants and experts. In addition, queries were sent to countries with designated United Nations Forum on Forests national focal points on forest-related financing activities at the national and subnational levels. Finally, the study incorporated the agreed recommendations from the first three facilitative process meetings on forest financing in low forest cover countries and small island developing States.

27. In general, the issues encountered in the preparation of the 2012 study are similar to that of the 2008 study. Information continues to be more limited in the area of national sources of public and private forest finance than of international sources. There remain differences in thematic coverage in reporting countries. Limited access to information, particularly in the private sector and at the national level for many countries, remains a challenge. Forest data continue to be aggregated within other sectors and large data gaps remain.

28. Access to data related to official development assistance also continues to be difficult, as the reporting guidelines for financing flows to forestry, as determined by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are narrower than the scope of work of the Forum on forest finance. There continue to be differences in national and organizational reporting standards to OECD, including the inclusion by some countries of concessional bilateral credits and loans as official development assistance. The risk of double counting official development assistance flows going through multilateral organizations remains.

29. In addition, it is difficult to adequately capture the value of many forest goods and services, including both timber and non-wood forest products, as not all these products enter formal markets. Services provided by forests, such as climate change mitigation and carbon sequestration, are similarly difficult to value, since they are not often marketed and are invisible in economic statistics. This has resulted in consistent and serious undervaluation of forest goods and services in official statistics and poses an additional challenge to comprehensive identification of all sources of financing for forests.

B. Key findings of the study

30. The 2012 study provides a far more substantive base of information than was ever provided before, in spite of all the limitations. The study identifies the current knowledge on forest finance obtained from multiple sources, including local and national government experts, other experts and representatives of multilateral institutions. The study presents major findings on the state of forest financing across the globe.

31. In the study, the global funding requirement for sustainable forest management is estimated at between \$70 and \$160 billion per year. Globally, resources remain insufficient to address all seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management, as defined in the forest instrument, in a balanced way.

32. Most countries are unable to raise adequate public funds for the forest sector, and reinvestment of revenues in forest management has been minimal. Conversion of public forest institutions into semi-autonomous commercial enterprises has been used to improve self-financing from the forest sector. Another trend is the establishment of national forest funds for the mobilization of additional funds from other sources.

33. Official development assistance disbursements increased by an average of 125 per cent between 2002-2004 and 2008-2010, due largely to financing related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD-plus). Thus, the fourth global objective on forests, to the extent that it deals with official development assistance, has been achieved. High forest cover countries have received the majority of forestry official development assistance. But most high forest cover countries with lower rates of deforestation, low forest cover countries and small island developing States, have continued to see a decline in forest financing. Low forest cover countries and small island developing States continue to experience decreases in official development assistance for forestry.

34. The private sector, including forest communities, smallholders, industry and other investors, is a key source of financing for forests, mostly through investments in forests managed for wood production. New private investors generally come from outside the forest industry and seek suitable combinations of financial returns and risk levels. Smallholders have limited access to financing compared to large producers, and sustainable management of natural forests receives limited financing compared to planted forests and protected areas.

35. Existing, new and emerging forest-related financing mechanisms have provided significant resources that are linked mainly to climate change, and to a lesser extent to biodiversity.

36. The potential for REDD-plus to contribute to forest financing is estimated at as much as \$6.2 billion per year in 2020. Around \$4 billion was pledged for the period 2010-2012. Apart from REDD-plus, however, many of the carbon-related initiatives have few or no forest activities. Payment of ecosystem services schemes is not yet broadly applied and requires enabling policy frameworks and development of market and non-market financing mechanisms.

37. Other obstacles to mobilization of forest financing include inadequate enabling conditions, insufficient capacities, donor and investor concerns about governance, insecure tenure, illegal activities, problems associated with eligibility and complex procedures for access to external resources. Sometimes inefficient use of the existing resources has further exacerbated the problem.

38. Success in forest financing stems mainly from strong political support; good systems of governance; efficient, robust and flexible implementation; and involvement of forest communities and other stakeholders. The study stresses that no single solution can address the need for forest financing, and a mixture of measures should be undertaken at all levels.

39. To that end, the study concludes that national forest financing strategies should target raising additional financing and using resources more efficiently, as well as connecting with relevant sectors and programme objectives within the forest sector. Implementation of the forest instrument has to be strengthened at all levels. Improving statistics and data collection on financing flows to sustainable forest management and related issues at all levels is essential for making systematic progress, and relevant mechanisms have to be strengthened in order to address data gaps and generate consistent and accurate data.

40. Access to resources of the existing forest-related financing mechanisms can be further improved by adjusting public sector financing criteria and streamlining the relevant procedures. The study also concludes that consideration should be given to strengthening existing forest-related financing mechanisms and establishing a new fund or funds for sustainable forest management devoted to addressing the needs and gaps that are not addressed by existing mechanisms.

IV. Organization-led initiative by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

41. In its resolution on forests for people, the Forum called for the active involvement and engagement of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in the intersessional activities of the Forum on forest financing, and invited members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to consider holding an organization-led initiative in support of the work of the Forum on forest financing.

42. Accordingly, the secretariat of the Forum and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with the support of other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and financial contributions from donor countries, jointly organized the initiative, which was held in Rome from 19 to 21 September 2012. The initiative aimed to deepen understanding and knowledge about the state of forest financing and various challenges that stakeholders were facing. The 2012 study of the Advisory Group on Finance on forest financing was first presented at the initiative. Participants had rich and deep discussions on the findings of the study and shared information on new developments related to forest financing.

43. Participants in the initiative identified some key actions, recommendations and suggestions on mobilizing financing for all types of forests at the national and international levels. These included, among other things, strengthening cross-sectoral and interdepartmental collaboration, building the capacities of countries to access funding, integrating planning for forest financing, establishing a specific Global Environment Facility focal area on forests, improving access to consistent and accurate data at all levels, creating an enabling environment for financing and considering a specific global forest instrument or convention, as well as the establishment of a global forest fund or funds.

44. Participants also explored actions to address gaps and needs in forest financing and take advantage of opportunities at the national, regional and international levels; strengthen funding mechanisms that address the multiple functions of forests; improve understanding on the potential of the private sector with regard to financing forests; and take advantage of the subregional and regional networks.

45. In developing options on forest financing, participants highlighted the importance of utilizing the potential of the facilitative process and brokerage services to improve access to forest financing; giving special consideration to dryland forests and the situation of the low forest cover countries, small island developing States and least developed countries in developing global forest financing options; devoting specific funds to addressing thematic gaps in financing all seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management; taking advantage of new and emerging financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and REDD-plus; and strengthening implementation of the forest instrument, utilizing all sources of financing from all levels. The Co-Chairs of the organization-led initiative submitted a summary of key actions, recommendations and suggestions highlighted during the meeting to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group at its second meeting (E/CN.18/AEG/2013/2, annex).

V. Other intersessional activities on forest financing

A. Study on the impacts and implications of the price of carbon on forest financing

46. With the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007 to include policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks under the climate change convention, there is unprecedented enthusiasm for funding for forests in the context of climate change among donor and recipient countries alike.

47. The emphasis on financing for REDD-plus presents challenges for other forest financing, in particular in the short term, as financing for forests may be diverted or re-labelled as REDD-plus. More research is needed to know the extent to which there is a real or perceived increase in funding for sustainable forest management through REDD-plus, as framed by the forest instrument. In addition, it is important to identify measures necessary to ensure appropriate distribution of financing to thematic and geographical areas not presently covered under REDD-plus, with particular reference to low forest cover countries, small island developing States, least developed countries and countries with high forest cover and low deforestation rate.

48. Other issues that need to be addressed include the extent to which REDD-plus has catalysed or hindered subnational markets in timber and non-timber forest products; the consequences of REDD-plus programming in terms of disrupting parallel socioeconomic development programmes and projects; the impact of REDD-plus on the exclusion of certain forest management practices, such as plantations; the impact of REDD-plus on the preservation of indigenous and traditional knowledge and values with respect to forests; the impact of REDD-plus on land tenure and customary rights to land use; and the extent to which REDD-plus has improved coherence and coordination among relevant mechanisms and institutions.

49. To examine some of the implications of REDD-plus on broader forest financing, the Government of Norway and the secretariat of the Forum signed a memorandum of understanding by which a study was commissioned aimed at identifying the potential impact of a price on forest carbon through results-based REDD-plus financing on the economics and financing of forests and related land use. The findings of the study were presented to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group at its second meeting.³ However, more work is needed to better understand the implications of REDD-plus on forest financing.

B. Open-ended informal briefing

50. Pursuant to paragraph 38 of the resolution on forests for people, an open-ended informal briefing by the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group at its first meeting was held in New York on 19 November 2012 to inform Member States of the progress made in the preparations for the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group.

C. Compilation of substantive submissions on forest financing

51. In response to paragraph 24 of the resolution on forests for people, 11 submissions were received from countries. These were compiled and submitted to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group at its second meeting⁴ for review, along with other intersessional inputs.

D. Forests and economic development

52. The secretariat of the Forum prepared background studies on economic contributions of forests, forests and cross-sectoral linkages and changing future choices and the contributions of forests. These studies provide the latest research and thinking on issues related to the main theme of the tenth session of the Forum and are intended to help the experts on forest finance in the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group to see the substantive connections of actions on forest financing. These studies also assist experts to consider forests in conjunction with national, regional and international trends, such as increasing urbanization, rising commodity prices, and distortions related to food security, energy, scarcity of water and arable land and the impact of rising populations.

E. Post-2015 development agenda and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

53. There are two significant intergovernmental processes relating to the post-2015 development agenda and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, that are

³ Available from http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/aheg2/AHEG2_Carbon_Johnson_Takimoto.pdf.

⁴ Available from http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/aheg2/AHEG2_BKpaper1_compilation.pdf.

relevant to the work of the Forum, including its discussion on forest financing (see E/CN.18/2013/6). In this context and pursuant to the decision of the Bureau of the Forum at its tenth session, the secretariat prepared a note on these processes for the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group at its second meeting (E/CN.18/AEG/2013/INF/2).

VI. Second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing

54. The second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group was held at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 14 to 18 January 2013. More than 150 experts from 75 countries and 23 regional and international organizations and processes, as well as major groups and independent experts attended. Experts heard several presentations on the findings of the 2012 study on forest financing, the summary of the Co-Chairs of the organization-led initiative, the facilitative process meetings on forest financing, the study on the impacts of the price of carbon on forest financing, and private sector financing for forests, as well as other relevant input, including background studies on forests and economic development.⁵ Two keynote speakers also provided their views on the feasible and realistic strategies on forest financing.

55. These presentations and subsequent interactive discussions led to identification of some actions and measures that should be taken to mobilize financing for forests at all levels and from all sources.

56. Participants in the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group highlighted the fact that new global trends, such as increased urbanization, as well as ongoing deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, have affected the discussion on forest financing. They also discussed data, geographic and thematic gaps with regard to forest financing, as well as the means to address these gaps. Participants highlighted the need to broaden the basis for data collection from multiple sources, as well as to ensure systematic efforts at all levels to generate accurate, consistent and reliable data.

57. Participants also discussed some actions that are necessary to provide a more enabling environment, and to improve capacity-development activities and the involvement of various stakeholders in mobilizing financing for forests, including national Governments, the private sector and member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Experts also highlighted several other policy, institutional and legislative measures to increase financing for forests at all levels, as well as the need to include cash and non-cash values of forests in developing strategies to finance forests.

58. Participants also discussed various options and measures for mobilizing forest financing at the national, regional and international levels. The role of national forest programmes, as an effective policy tool for mobilizing financing, as well as other measures, such as development of national forest financing strategies and establishment of national forest funds, were highlighted. At the regional and

⁵ See <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc.html>.

international levels, experts highlighted the need to promote interregional and intraregional collaboration on forest financing, increase financing for implementation of the forest instrument and strengthen existing forest-related financing mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, various mechanisms within the Rio Conventions and Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, such as FAO, the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the facilitative process.

59. Participants also discussed at length the pros and cons of establishing a voluntary global fund to finance sustainable forest management. A number of other ideas were suggested, such as identifying brokering intermediary institutions to mobilize funding for forests or having an umbrella structure to coordinate the existing multilateral funds related to forests.

60. Based on the discussions at the second meeting, the Co-Chairs prepared a summary, in which they also provided a set of proposals and options for forest financing. Experts attending the meeting adopted the report of the meeting and took note of the Co-Chairs' summary, which is annexed to the report of the meeting (E/CN.18/2013/12).

VII. Forest financing: the way forward

61. The resolution adopted by the Forum at the special session of its ninth session provided the foundation for beginning a four-year workplan on forest financing, from October 2009 to April 2013. During this period, the Forum undertook substantive work never before carried out by any body, organization or convention, involving analytical and operational input from Governments, international and regional organizations and stakeholders from countries with different levels of development and forest cover.

62. The forest financing process and related intersessional activities of the Forum provided opportunities for multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder discussions and input on forest financing.

63. The forest financing process of the Forum enabled stakeholders to engage in a frank and constructive dialogue and to focus on providing a wide range of inputs with feasible, efficient and credible suggestions for action to address forest financing. The level of knowledge, information and enthusiasm on forest financing has been unprecedented and has provided the Forum with a unique and extraordinary opportunity to make a historic decision on forest financing at its tenth session.

64. Strengthening and mobilizing resources for forests at the national level is contingent upon improving policy, legislative and institutional frameworks, as well as providing a platform for engagement of various stakeholders, including forest communities, smallholders, civil society, indigenous people and the private sector. In this regard, national forest financing strategies are effective means for mobilizing financial resources from all possible sources and supporting key activities necessary for sustainable forest management. National forest financing strategies should work in a holistic fashion and strengthen links to the finance sector, as well as to the agriculture, water, energy and other relevant sectors.

65. These strategies should be a part of the national forest programmes and should promote coherence in implementation of various multilateral environmental agreements at the national level. Cooperative approaches could catalyse more effective financing for all. These could include joint preparation and implementation of the national forest financing strategies, with the national resource mobilization strategies and investment frameworks supported by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

66. The development and incorporation of national forest funds into national forest programmes and forest policy and legislation is another effective option for addressing forest financing needs.

67. Increasing financing for the implementation of the forest instrument was one of the key recommendations that came out of the intersessional work. It is important to note that, while the forest instrument is not legally binding, it is the only globally agreed framework on forests that provides a comprehensive set of actions to promote the sustainable management of all types of forests at all levels.

68. Given the importance of forests to achieving the objectives of all three of the Rio Conventions, consideration should be given to establishing a marker for forest funding similar to the Rio Marker to address the forest instrument and the global objectives on forests.

69. One of the key conclusions that emerged from the four-year work of the Forum on forest financing is that addressing data gaps is one of the most fundamental challenges. Data gaps exist at all levels and apply to different stakeholders. There is a clear need to strengthen national statistical data, as well as mechanisms and processes for collecting data on forest financing, including in the implementation of the forest instrument.

70. More effective coordination of efforts across the United Nations system, including through innovative social and technological means to communicate data, would help countries to access information. Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations could be instrumental in collecting data on forest financing by designating lead agencies to collect specific data, in accordance with their mandates. It is equally important for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to work to produce consistent and accurate data on forest financing, including data on cross-sectoral financing that goes to forests.

71. Regional and subregional coordination and cooperation are instrumental in mobilizing financial resources for forest management and must be strengthened to help countries address sustainable forest management challenges in general and financing of forests in particular.

72. The private sector has a critical role in shaping the market and generating financing for forests at the national and international levels. An enabling environment is key to engaging the private sector in increasing financing for forests. An enabling environment entails policy and regulatory conditions in which the interests of both investors and beneficiaries (people and the environment) are respected and ensured.

73. How to mobilize sufficient funding for sustainable forest management has been the subject of policy debate at the global level for more than 20 years. Part of this discussion has been on options that could help address the issue at the global

level, including strengthening existing forest financing mechanisms and establishing a voluntary global forest fund.

74. While arguments have been put forward for and against both options, many are of the view that these options are not mutually exclusive. The agreement at the ninth session of the Forum, in 2011, was that all options to mobilize resources for forests should be considered.

75. The inputs prepared during the intersessional period put forward various proposals to strengthen existing forest financing mechanisms, as well as the possible functions of a global forest fund. A global fund could focus on aspects of sustainable forest management that are not covered by other conventions and organizations. It would need to give priority to the thematic and geographical areas that have been identified as having major financing gaps. The fund could also meet important up-front financing requirements by creating an enabling environment that would attract funds from other sources. A global fund should also identify a role for national funds that will complement the country-level resources to finance sustainable forest management, including national forest funds. Defining the links between such a fund and, for example, national forest programmes and national forest financing strategies could also be useful.

76. It is important to know how a global forest fund would operate if created, where it would be located, what the modalities would be for accessing its resources, what the eligibility criteria would be, how the funds would be collected and ensured, how a global fund would work with existing multilateral forest financing mechanisms and how complementarity among these funds and mechanisms would be ensured.

77. Alternatively, a number of "targeted funds" could complement the existing forest-related financing mechanisms to address the sustainable forest management gaps and needs. While this would require some policy adjustments in the respective institutions and organizations to include sustainable forest management elements in their work, it might result in fewer complications and duplications.

78. There is no one single solution to address all of the needs in forest financing. The magnitude of the issue requires action at local, national, regional and global levels and by all stakeholders. At the global level it is important to look for a mixture of measures and seek a solution that is based on complementarity and is satisfactory to all parties. In this context, while the international community should strive to strengthen existing forest-related financing mechanisms, it can also consider devoting a fund or funds to addressing sustainable forest management needs and gaps not yet addressed by the existing mechanisms. This solution can bring benefits for all countries and stakeholders.

VIII. Key actions, recommendations and options on forest financing

79. The Forum may wish to consider and take decisions on the recommendations set out below:

80. Good governance:

Promote enabling conditions, especially effective institutions at all levels, legal frameworks and political engagement, to attract forest financing from all sources and reduce risk for investment through:

- (i) Enhancing secure land tenure and resource tenure rights in land use and inheritance laws, promoting forest law enforcement and inviting FAO to continue to work on implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;
- (ii) Strengthening country-level donor coordination mechanisms in the forest sector and ensuring linkages with national development plans as well as national forest programmes and other sectoral policies;
- (iii) Further strengthening communication strategies aimed at improving public understanding of the importance of forests.

81. Engaging all stakeholders and building partnerships:

- (a) Provide support to processes, such as the international model forest network, that build partnerships, promote dialogue and strengthen the capacities of forest stakeholders, in particular women and youth, at every level, in particular at the local level;
- (b) Invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations and donors to support local forest stakeholders and smallholders in the development of cooperatives, forest producer organizations and similar groups to enable group lending practices to improve access to financing for forests;
- (c) Develop and implement awareness-raising programmes for policymakers on the economic, social and environmental values of forests and trees outside forests.

82. Cross-sectoral collaboration:

- (a) Promote knowledge-sharing to improve mutual understanding and communication between the forest sector and other sectors and institutional financial systems to help mobilize funding for forests from other sectors such as the watershed, rangeland, energy, agriculture and tourism sectors, at the national level;
- (b) Strengthen cross-sectoral and cross-institutional collaboration at the national level through policy frameworks, such as national forest programmes or their equivalents, to attract more resources for forests, building, inter alia, upon the experiences of the FAO Forest and Farm Facility and its predecessor, the National Forest Programme Facility, in promoting such collaborations at the local and community levels;
- (c) Integrate forests in the priority areas of national development plans and identify the values of forest goods and services in national budgets and accounts by collecting data, developing indicators and capturing both cash and non-cash values of forests;
- (d) Encourage the World Bank and regional development banks to promote cross-sectoral collaboration and integrate sustainable forest management programmes in their relevant work.

83. Capacity-building:

(a) Formulate strategies to address the capacity-development needs of countries, particularly developing countries, especially on accessing funds, including on monitoring and law enforcement activities, data, development and management and partnership development;

(b) Encourage financial institutions to develop appropriate lending tools for forest owners and communities;

(c) Secure sufficient financing for research, education and training.

84. Formal markets, informal markets and the private sector:

(a) Promote the use of public-private partnerships where public financing and investment can mitigate potential risks for private investment and ensure that private capital is used in a socially and environmentally responsible manner;

(b) Provide a policy environment that encourages private sector investment to create markets that capture non-market forest goods and services;

(c) Assist the private sector to identify gaps, obstacles and opportunities in forest financing to ensure properly targeted investments by the private sector;

(d) Recognize and/or formalize informal markets for local trade in forest products, where applicable, as a key source of financing;

(e) Explore formal and informal financing opportunities such as microfinancing and remittances, which could be channelled through forest owner organizations, cooperatives and producer groups, recognizing the broad and varied nature of the private sector.

85. National forest financing options:

(a) Strengthen mobilization of forest financing, in particular through national forest programmes, using a combination of financing approaches, including the creation of national forest funds, and identify other opportunities for financing at the national level;

(b) Create, strengthen and implement forest financing strategies that focus on a cross-sectoral approach to the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable forest management as at the national landscape level;

(c) Develop national forest financing strategies, or equivalent strategies, that package financing for forests from all sources in a participatory manner, taking into account the interlinkages between forests issues and other issues, including poverty eradication, food security, climate change, agriculture, rural development, energy, transportation, mining and tourism;

(d) Encourage the development of national forest financing strategies or equivalent strategies.

86. Addressing sustainable forest management data, geographic and thematic gaps:

(a) Focus on addressing gaps in forest financing and devote adequate resources and make concerted efforts to address these gaps at all levels;

(b) Support a forest finance data development programme at the national level, working in collaboration with Governments, regional processes, Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, other sectors and development banks;

(c) Make knowledge management on forest economic development, forest financing and returns on investment in sustainable forest management, a continuous process rather than ad hoc, with associated committed funding, and take advantage of data-collection processes in other institutions;

(d) Support Collaborative Partnership on Forests members to strengthen existing data collection and access mechanisms, to address data gaps in forest financing and forest economic development in a systematic, coordinated and coherent manner so as to provide consistent and accurate data across all sectors, and invite donors to provide resources to Collaborative Partnership on Forests members to carry out this responsibility;

(e) Use the existing data-collection frameworks of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, including the Partnership's sourcebook on funding for sustainable forest management and the Forum's newly developed reporting format to collect data, in particular in the areas where there are gaps in data, such as quantitative and qualitative information on cross-sectoral forest financing;

(f) Request the secretariat of the Forum to synthesize all findings and recommendations contained in intersessional inputs on forest financing, including information on data, geographical and thematic gaps, and provide them to members of the Forum;

(g) Encourage FAO to further develop its work on national public funding for sustainable forest management as part of the preparation of future FAO forest resource assessments;

(h) Invite OECD to review its forest-related definitions to create new categories of data so as to reflect the cross-sectoral nature of forest financing.

87. Financing implementation of the forest instrument:

(a) Increase financing for the implementation of the forest instrument at all levels and in any forest financing strategies to advance sustainable forest management;

(b) Invite all relevant stakeholders, including donors and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations to support developing countries in implementing the forest instrument;

(c) Promote interministerial coordination for mobilizing financing for implementation of the forest instrument and overcoming the disconnect among different ministries;

(d) Invite Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations to mainstream implementation of the forest instrument in the programme of work of various forest-related financing mechanisms, organizations and initiatives;

(e) Invite OECD to set up a tool similar to the Rio marker to track and measure funding for the implementation of the forest instrument and its four global objectives on forests.

88. Official development assistance:

(a) Stress that, while forest financing is primarily a national responsibility and self-sustaining in the long term, international assistance including official development assistance has an important catalytic role in promoting sustainable forest management in many countries;

(b) Prioritize forests and cross-sectoral or thematic approaches to enhance the contribution of forests to economic, environmental and social development;

(c) Address fragmentation among forest-related financing mechanisms.

89. Regional cooperation:

(a) Strengthen interregional and intraregional cooperation on forest economic development and financing, including the development of proposals to donors for financing, exploration of forest finance and economic development opportunities with the private sector and sharing of relevant experience, knowledge and expertise;

(b) Establish partnerships between regional economic bodies and networks and regional development banks, such as the African Development Bank and the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

90. Strengthening existing multilateral forest-related financing mechanisms and improving access to their resources:

(a) Agree to strengthen existing forest-related financing mechanisms by improving access to and efficiency of resources, by mobilizing new and additional resources to address the sustainable forest management needs and gaps that have not yet been addressed and by devoting new and additional funds for forests within those mechanisms, and in this regard invite the mechanisms to:

(i) Modify public sector financing criteria and further streamline international funding processes and procedures to improve access to their funds;

(ii) Promote synergies among their programmes to address financing needs and gaps in the implementation of sustainable forest management;

(iii) Devote specific financial resources and develop programmes to address thematic gaps in forest financing and all seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management, as contained in the forest instrument, so as to realize the full potential of forests;

(iv) Support the preparation of national reports of developing countries to the Forum on the implementation of the forest instrument through the allocation of new and additional funds to the existing forest-related financing mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility;

(v) Further support countries to undertake forest inventories and valuations to demonstrate the contributions of forests to economic development and to the provision of environmental and social goods and services;

(vi) Support countries in identifying and assessing non-cash values of forest products and services;

(vii) Assist countries to address financing challenges by building capacity to access funding and implement flexible and tailored strategies that package public, private and international finance;

(b) Invite the Global Environment Facility to:

(i) Consider establishment of a new focal area on sustainable management of all types of forests during the next Global Environment Facility replenishment, based on the review of its sustainable forest management/REDD-plus incentive mechanism and other elements of the Global Environment Facility forest portfolio;

(ii) Address the geographical gaps in forest financing by giving special consideration to dryland forests and the special needs of low forest cover countries, small island developing States, high forest cover countries, African countries, and least developed countries;

(c) Invite donors to provide resources to the facilitative process to carry out the following tasks, in collaboration with Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, including FAO and the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

(i) Develop national and regional forest financing strategy templates, in collaboration with countries and Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, for the low forest cover countries, small island developing States, African countries and least developed countries, and assist these countries to develop relevant projects;

(ii) Make proposals for improving coordination and collaboration among forest-related financing mechanisms to the Forum at its eleventh session, with a view to facilitating access by countries to funds;

(iii) Address forest and economic development gaps that can have an impact on forest financing.

91. New and emerging funds:

(a) Recognize the opportunities for mobilizing new financing for forests through funds, strategies and programmes in various Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, as well as other relevant international and regional organizations;

(b) Invite parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and regional development banks and programmes to integrate financing activities for sustainable forest management in their relevant funds and operational programmes, including the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and similar programmes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(c) Invite parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to integrate financing of sustainable forest management in their relevant programmes and strategies, including the resource mobilization strategy.

92. Other forest financing options:

(a) Further consider the establishment of a voluntary global fund to enhance the achievement of sustainable forest management by developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(b) Consider other options to mobilize new and additional financing for forests, including an umbrella framework to coordinate the existing forest-related financing mechanisms and brokering or intermediary institutions at various levels to improve access of countries to financing for forests.

93. Mainstreaming forests in development decision-making processes:

(a) Strengthen evaluation of the full range of forest values, including through natural resources accounting;

(b) Integrate broader values of forests into development planning, decision-making and investments.

94. Forests, the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals:

Invite countries, through their relevant representatives, to integrate forests in the post-2015 development agenda and within the sustainable development goals and to integrate financing in sustainable development financing strategies, taking into account the fact that forests play a vital role in poverty eradication and improved livelihoods.